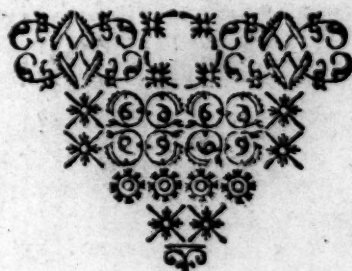


THE
HISTORY
OF

Two Modern Adventurers.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.



LONDON:

Printed for JOHN STAPLES, at the *Bible and Star*, fronting *Stationers Hall*.

M.DCC.LVII.



To the truly DISHONOURABLE,
THE
Bucks, Bloods, and Spirits
OF THE
Inferior Classes in *Great-Britain*,
OCCASION'D BY
A Perusal of the following MEMOIRS.

GENTLEMEN,

WE have an old Saying amongst us, which, from repeated Experience, is become proverbial, *That the old Wife had never sought in the Oven for her Daughter, had she never chose that Retreat herself*; or somewhat very like it. Now, having formerly been a *Brother Buck* myself, who more like to advise properly in the Case, than I am?

DEDICATION.

GIVE me Leave to premise, the Malignity of the Planet a true Genius is born under, when, providing him of a Spirit, it confines his Operations within the Purlieus of such Dependencies, as serve, indeed, to furnish him with the Uniform of a *Blood*, but limit him, in the Display of his Talents in the Occupation.

SUCH as these, are the Genii, to whom I at present address myself. As for the *Bucks* of a superior Order, Fortune having qualified them for a steady Prosecution of their Enterprizes, these may break Windows, scour Brothels, beat the Watch, raise Riots, or even turn *Mobocks*, with a Spirit, having ever a composing Julap in their Purses, for purchasing their Peace from the Conservators of it; and quieting all turbulent Clamours against them, when it chances to prove their Misfortune to

DEDICATION.

be surprized in the Act of Trespas; and this, not only once and away, but *toties quoties*, from the almost Inexhaustableness of their hereditary Funds.

THESE, we may pronounce the Exemplars, for the Imitation of the Demi-genii, as I may call them, many of which Class, would not be a Whittles famous in Story than those, were it not for a confounded Cramp, that mostly seizes them at stated Periods, to the over-turning of the Activity they at first set out with: For not the mightiest Monarch on Earth can subdue a single Nation, without what we stile the Sinews of War, or any longer appear before it, than these continue in Force. No, once enfeeble him of these, he becomes a shorn *Sampson*, and serves but for the Sport of his Enemies.

How then can a Man of Blood, invigorated by a gallant Spirit, perpetually

DEDICATION.

spurring him to Action, support himself under a Privation of those Enjoyments, that heretofore enabled him to partake of the Excesses, still prosecuted by his Brother *Bucks*? His past Engagements have disqualified him, both Body and Spirit, for the Functions of Industry; and as a retail Supply will not avail for his Purposes, so an Wholesale one must be procured by him; which being once resolved upon, he is no longer at a Loss for sufficient Motives, to draw the whole Man into any profitable Scheme.

THE *Buck*, is ever nimble; the *Spirit*, restless, and the *Blood*, ever in Motion; whilst the *Genii*, suit Occasions to their several Talents: So that, which ever of these prevails, it denominates the Man accordingly; but as every of them disqualify him for Thought and Sedateness, (the Nurseries of every Art and Science) what Alternative has he left
for

DEDICATION.

for supplying his Intemperances, but the Highway? where meeting with a Trifle of other Men's Booty, he enjoys it, but as he did his own; ever in Want of an Increase, and still lulled in a golden Dream, of new Recruits, and Security; till sooner, or later (for the fatal Hour will come) the iron Hand of Justice surprizing him, as it did my Friend *Parnel*, he is hurried out of Life ignominiously, a Martyr to his own Folly.

WHAT therefore, I would advise you headlong Gentlemen to, before you engage yourselves too deeply in a thoughtless Gallantry, merely to ape your Superiors, is; every Morning, before you rise, to take the following Recipe, and to lye upon your Backs, for at least one Hour after it; at all Events, with your Eyes open: For that the least Tendency to Drowsiness in the Patient, will prove destructive of the whole Efficacy of the Prescription.

DEDICATION.

℞. Two Drachms of Reflection Seeds; one Grain and Half of the Quintessence of Sagacity; two Scruples of common Honesty; five of Religion; one Pound of the Elixir of Diligence; two Handfuls of Tops of Forecast; and six Pennyworth of the Lees of Humility. Blend all these together, working them up well in the Shell of Judgment, either with the Trifle of Brains you may casually find there, or, in Default of these, with a round Spoonful of the Spirit of Resolution, till they are become of such a Consistence, as inseparably to adhere together.

The Dose, at first, is a small Tea-Spoonful, to tender Constitutions, which may be increased, at the Discretion of the Patient.

N. B.

D E D I C A T I O N.

N. B. *Your Common Honesty and Religion, should be both wrought together into one Mass, before Commixture with the other Ingredients; lest their Virtues, being disjoined in the Composition, should fly off.*

To the above Nostrum, I can fairly subscribe my *Probatum est*, from its powerful Effects, not only upon myself, but upon the Author of the ensuing Treatise; from whence I am able to recommend it to the Brotherhood. As to the Particulars of our Cures, how, and by what Degrees it operated with us, was I here to declare, I should but anticipate the satisfactory Instructions, I am in Hopes, that you, *Bloods*, and *Choice Spirits*, will gradually imbibe, whilst you peruse the ensuing Memoirs.

THIS I can undertake to promise you; that duly prosecuted, for the Space
of

DEDICATION,

of one Month, at first, and then repeated Spring and Fall, as you may find the latent Malignity of your former Distemper at Work upon your Intellects, you will be driven to confess the Sovereignty of the Remedy, not only for composing all your mental Distractions; but for settling you in a plentiful Security ever after, or never more trust your

Friend, and Servant,

5 JA 59

JOHN SHARP.

CON-

CONTENTS

OF THE

FIRST VOLUME.

CHAP. I.

Mr. Draper's Apology as Author. Account of his Father and Marriage. Loses both Father and Mother. Die in Debt. Is distressed. Meeting between him and Jack Sharp. Condole their Misfortunes together
Page 1

CHAP. II.

*Dine together. Sharp's Scheme to raise himself. Appoint another Meeting. Bespeak Clothes. Dress gay. Keep Company. Taken
for*

CONTENTS.

*for Members of Parliament. Get into
Scrapes. Bailed off. At a Gaming-House.
Draper's Head broke in a Scuffle. Terrifies
the whole Family* Page 14

CHAP. III.

*Set upon Ways and Means. Resolve to turn
Gamesters. Their Proceedings. Old Com-
panions join them. Draper a great Winner.
Go upon the Rake. Discomfit a Posse of
Whores. Engage on new Pranks. Amour
of Draper's. Disburdened of his Winnings.
Could hang himself. Resolve to fly their old
Companions* 27

CHAP. IV.

*Meet a School-fellow, Tom Parnel, Drawer
at a Tavern. Tom's Story. Find out each
other's Circumstances. Tom's Project to
get Money. They offer to join him. Reel
home. Meet Tom again. Arguments pre-
vious to his Project. Tom's solemn Pre-
face. They take an Oath of Secresy* 48

CHAP. V.

*Tom harangues them. His Argument in Fa-
vour of the Highway. Account of his own
Trans-*

C O N T E N T S.

Transactions. Descant upon Tom's Proposal. Agree to it. Tom's proper Hints
Page 60

C H A P. VI.

Set up for Highwaymen. Attack a Coach. How they come off. Method of living. Tom drawn in by a Whore. Grows extravagant. Commits a Murder. They leave him. Their Case desperate. Sharp relates an unfortunate Love Affair 73

C H A P. VII.

Project to make their Fortunes by Marriage. Discussed. Agreed to. Beneficial Article. Procure their best Clothes. Fear Tom's impeaching them. Tom committed. Recital of Tom's Case from a Pamphlet 87

C H A P. VIII.

Tom Parnel's Case continued. Makes Confession. Remarks of the Justice of Peace upon Tom's Whore. Her Impudence. Justice commits her. Like to lose the Reward. Her Behaviour. Runs mad. Tom executed. Sense of Highwaymen's Oaths. Hire Frank for a Servant. His Character 103

C H A P.

CONTENTS.

CHAP. IX.

Believe Frank well educated. Frank's Account of himself. His first Marriage. Poverty. Wife consents to a second Marriage

Page 114

CHAP. X.

Frank arrives near his Widow. His Inn-keeper's Account of her. His good Fortune. Dines with the Widow. Their Conversation

125

CHAP. XI.

Frank drawn in to discover his real Name and Family. His Story continued. Invited again by the Widow. Marries her. Her Behaviour to him. Different Effects of Virtue and Vice. Writes to his first Wife. Her Answer. Frank's Distraction at it. Reflection. Frank's Reply to his Wife's

141

CHAP. XII.

Frank's Wife to him. Frank's Case at Sight of his Wife. Reflection. Death of his Wife. Detests his second Wife. Is discovered to be married. His Lady's Behaviour

to

C O N T E N T S.

to him. He leaves her. Determines upon Service. His Success therein Page 155

C H A P. XIII.

Have Scent of a young Heiress at Scarborough ; but of two know not which is she. Frank undertakes to assist. His Discourse with Draper of Miss. Discovers the Secret. Quit Scarborough. Arrive at Bath. Select two Ladies to make Love to. Picquet decides which shall have his Choice. Draper takes Miss Gatewell ; Sharp Miss Westborn. Draper's Suit comes forward. Thinks himself sure of her. She vanishes. His Soliloquy, and Distress 173

C H A P. XIV.

Sharp wants Miss Westborn in private. Has a vigilant Aunt. Would draw Frank into a Scheme. He parries it off. Approved by the Parties. Executed. Gains the Ear of the Fair. Is the old Lady's Favourite 192

C H A P. XV.

Frank relates the Affair to Draper. Sharp visits the Ladies. Compliments on both Sides. Sharp put to the Blush by the Aunt. Circumvents her 204

C H A P.

C O N T E N T S.

C H A P. XVI.

Sharp courts the Aunt for her Antiquity. Lends Miss a Lift by the Bye. The old Lady's Encomiums on Sharp. Vanity unbecoming in Age. Love flows apace. Sharp looked on as one of the Family. Miss and Sharp agree to Wedlock On their Journey to London. Are married privately by the Way. Old Lady receives a Remittance. Tricked out of it by Sharp, who declares his Marriage with her Niece. All in a Flame Page 216

C H A P. XVII.

Sharp claims Mastership. His Lady sent for by her Father to Jamaica. Aunt in the Dumps. Reduced by Mrs. Sharp's Reasonings. Letter to put off Mrs. Sharp's Return. Draper maintained by Sharp 233

5 JA 59

THE HISTORY

O F

TWO MODERN ADVENTURERS.

CHAP. I.

Mr. Draper's Apology as Author. Account of his Father and Marriage. Loses both Father and Mother. Die in Debt. Is distressed. Meeting between him and Jack Sharp. Condole their Misfortunes together.

LET not the Reader of the following Sheets, into whose Hands they may casually fall, conceive that they proceed from any Delight, a Retrospection into the past Facts herein recorded, administered to me in the Reflection; but rather let him attribute them to their genuine Motive, that, as a Mirrour, placed before the

VOL. I.

B

Eye

2 *The* HISTORY

Eye of the unwary Youth, he may behold the Deformity of my Actions, and in those of his own, if, under my Circumstances, he shall ever be so bewitched as to appropriate them.

My Grandfather, *George Draper*, was a Clothier in the western Parts of *England*, who, by Industry and Application in his Calling, had acquired about two hundred Pounds a Year, landed Estate, of which, at his Death, he left to my Grandmother his Widow, a much younger Woman than befitted his Years, one Moiety, and to my Father, his only Son, the other, with also the reversionary Interest of her Moiety after her Decease.

My Grandfather, during his Life-time, had all along intended my Father for a Parson; for which Reason he had given him an entire scholastick Education, and, had he lived one twelve Months longer, my Father had gone to the University; but he dying in my Father's seventeenth Year, and my Father declining a Life of such Strictness, and Confinement as that of a Clergyman, gave a loose to Thoughts of more Gaiety and Libertinism; so that the Estate which my Grandfather had for some Years intended for, and had by his Will given him absolutely, as a Maintenance in his collegiate

legiate Life, was now sold, to purchase him a Commission in the Guards; and, after paying for his Horse and Accoutrements, the few Hundreds that remained were soon dissipated in a Knot of politer Company he now found himself associated with.

He remained in the Station of Cornet of Horse for about eleven Years; when my Grandmother dying, he entered into Possession of her hundred Pounds a Year Jointure: But his Inclination having long aspired to a Lieutenancy, he had now a Fund to proceed upon for the Accomplishment of his Views; and accordingly, as no Advancement was to be expected, but from the Penny laid down for it, he mortgaged his little Estate, for so much as would answer his Purpose; but had not enjoyed that more than three Years, before his Captain dying, he applied to the Colonel to succeed him; when having sold the last hundred a Year, and paid off the Incumbrance, the Purchase-Money just instated him in his wished for Haven of Captain.

Now it was, that reflecting with himself, that not only his paternal Estate, but all his ready Money also was gone, and that he had no other Stake left at any Nonplus, to accommodate himself from, save the Income of his Commission, he began to think

of raising a fresh Fund by Marriage, and, for that End, beat about very sedulously, for the starting some Game towards the Augmentation of his Fortune; not doubting but his Rank in the Soldiery would command him a Wife with some Thousands: But so little are we Masters of our own Resolutions, in the Affairs of Love, that not the wisest of us can subscribe to the most profitable Object, or withdraw our Affection from the undeserving: For though my Father's personal Accomplishments, joined to the Post he held, might have favoured his Addresses to a Lady of far superior Merit and Fortune; and though he had brought Matters to such a Crisis, with a Lady of ten thousand Pounds at her own Dispose, as that she, having previously declared her Esteem for him, no more was wanting, than barely his putting the Question to her; and though he was now upon a Tour to her, at her Country Seat for that Purpose; yet, being accidentally led into an Inn, where he intended to pass only a single Night, in his Way to his Mistress; he became so captivated by the Charms of a Daughter of the House, that fixing his Quarters there for about ten Days, as disqualified for a farther March, he, at the Conclusion of that Space,

carried

of two Modern Adventurers. 5

carried off the Damsel in Triumph, as his Bride, to his Habitation at *London*.

After this Account of the Parentage of my female Parent, it will be needless to form Inquiries into her Fortune: My Father himself being so caught, by the Eye only, at the Impression of her visible Endowments, as never to have made the least previous Demand about that.

In short, he new rigged her from Head to Foot, kept her an handsome Equipage, and remained so fond of her, that, giving into her Taste for a polite Life, little Savings could be hoped for from his Income.

I am the sole Issue of that Marriage; nor can it be supposed I should be a small Darling in the Eye of both my Parents; so that very few young Fellows were ever more tenderly educated than myself, till I was fit for going to *Winchester* School, where I was put upon all Sorts of Learning, and ever with Notions above all manual Operations, for my future Subsistence; till after having run through the Classics, with no other View in Life than of becoming soon a fine Gentleman, when I should have obtained my Dismission from thence; about my nineteenth Year, my Father dying very much in Debt, and his Commission, with the whole Profit of it, being sunk to his Family,

my Mother and I found ourselves destitute of all other Support, than what we could secrete from the rapacious Gripe of his hungry Creditors, upon which we subsisted for about six Months; in which Time, the Alteration of her Circumstances having broken my Mother's Heart, she was too far gone to be revived again, by a Piece of good Fortune that befel me, and whereof she would still have had the Benefit so long as it would have lasted us; but I had not been possessed of it more than a Month, before I lost her, from a galloping Consumption.

Nothing ever went so near my Heart as the Death of that good Woman, in whom I had never failed of every Consolation, applicable to my then Circumstances; but a few Weeks Time even wore off the Remembrance of all her Indulgences to me, and I began to bethink myself of some Method to get my Bread by, before I should be bereaved of all my Substance.

My Father, from his Station in Life, had Abundance of seeming Friends, Men of Interest and Fortune in the World, who undoubtedly, had he lived, and requested it, would, some or other of them, have prided themselves in providing me a Post in the Government; so that, in Hopes of their still subsisting Remembrance of past
Friend-

Friendship for my Father, I made the less Doubt, but some one of them would shew Kindness to his Orphan-Son; for which Reason I made my Application to several of them, though without the Honour of being known to them, which my distant Education from Home, for several Years, had deprived me of: But I soon found, that I might rather waste both my Time and my Money, under that kind of Sollicitation, than ever be a Penny benefited by it; for, if I could have believed them, there was not a Man of them who held not my Father in the highest Esteem, and was sorry it was not in his Power to serve me: But; and then followed so many righteous Reasons of their Incapacity, that a Man must have been the most obstinate of Infidels, not to have submitted to them; so that, giving up all Thoughts of any Donative, I was about turning my Head to the making the most of my little remaining Stock, and was immersed under these Cogitations, as I was musing by myself near *Rosamond's Pond*, in *St. James's Park* one Day, wholly lost as to all visible Representation of outward Objects.

An old Intimate and School-fellow at this Instant meeting me, and observing me to be so wrapt in Contemplation, passed

B 4

me,

me, without speaking to me; not well, upon the sudden, knowing whether it was me or not; but, after a few Paces, resolving to be satisfied, he turned again upon me, and overtaking me, looked so earnestly in my Face, as to attract my Eye towards him; when a Glimpse only of his Person interrupting the Clue of my Reflections, by a Recall of some of the many interesting Scenes we had appeared together in, I stood as one stupid for a Space, till I had shifted my melancholy Ideas to those of a more sprightly Turn.

I then accosted him in my usual Familiarity, by his Christian Name; *Jack!* said I, is it you? the very last Man upon the Globe that I should have expected to have met with here.

Do'st not know me then, *Will?* said he. Our former Intimacy might, surely, have intitled me to one Glance from you; but, instead of that, though I stared you full in the Face till I was out of Countenance, you passed me by, as one of too inconsiderable a Rank to be noticed by you.—But come, added *Jack Sharp*, (for that was his Name) answer me faithfully, and I can still forgive your Neglect of me; was not your Mistress the sole Proprietress of your Heart at that gloomy Instant? Was you not practicing
some

some melting Design that is to be thrown out to her at your next Meeting?

Alas! *Jack*, said I, my Brain was turning clearly upon another Topick. It is Time enough for a Man to seek out for a Mistress when he is fully able to support her, and a growing Family; which, I can promise you, is far enough from being my Case at present: No, added I, my Employment was, on Ways and Means to provide for myself, and these have for some Time almost distracted me, without having as yet made the least Progress in them.

What means my good Friend? said *Jack*. Is your Father the Captain living, or dead? I hope you have done nothing to disoblige him; for I remember how fond, both he and your Mother were of you, the *Christmas* that I had the Pleasure to spend with you, some few Winters ago. That they then held nothing dearer to them than yourself, I am persuaded; nor could either of them judge whatever they might gratify you in, too much for you.

Ah! *Jack*, said I, those Days are past. It is true, I had but little to wish long for, whilst my Father lived; but having lost him about twelve Months since, and my good Mother lately, all Resources of my Comforts are stopped; for my Father's In-

come died with him, nor proved all that he left behind him any ways adequate to the Discharge of his Incumbrances ; insomuch, that had not an Aunt of mine, whom I never saw, left me three hundred Pounds by her Will, I must, before now, have been condemned to a Service for my daily Bread.

I am sorry for you, *Will*, said *Jack*; but not a Man of us can plead an Exemption from Misfortunes. I was always bred up under a Notion of my Father's being a wealthy Man, and of the handsome Fortune I should enjoy at his Decease; nor failed me these Hopes, as to the Amplitude of his Wealth, or the Provision he made for me ; but yet, my Friend, I now find myself in even a worse Condition than you are.

How so, *Jack*? said I. Why, added he, my poor deluded Father, having a Notion, that, from the Affection my Mother expressed for him, and from the Regard he presumed she must ever pay to his Memory, she would have been the last Woman alive who would have inclined her Ear to a future Marriage, not only settled upon her a large Maintenance for her Life, but made her his sole Executrix, and Guardian to me, his only Child ; whereby she became intitled to the Custody and Disposition of my Fortune,

of two Modern Adventurers. 11

Fortune, of six thousand Pounds, payable to me upon my coming of Age. I thought myself thereupon very snug in my Circumstances, and fully purposed, so soon as ever I should arrive to the Enjoyment of it, by bestowing two or three thousand Pounds upon some genteel Post for my Life, to have placed myself in the Rank of a Gentleman for ever after. Nay, I had carried on my Plan so far in my own Mind, as to have wedded my imaginary Bride, with five or six thousand Pounds more, which having conjoined to my own, we might have cut no despicable Figure in Life with; but, alas! *Will*, added he, within five Months of the Death of my Father, and whilst I was wholly busied in the Erection of these airy Castles, his disconsolate Widow surrendered herself at the Discretion of an half starved *Irishman*, who, thereby gaining a Power over both her Fortune, and mine, which were vested in Annuities in her Name, converted these Annuities into Cash, and, in about six Weeks after his Nuptials, having deserted his new Bride inceremoniously, the first Syllable she heard of what was become of him was, that he was flashing away in his own Country upon our Substance; thereby signifying to his Comrades, the Facility wherewith the *Hibernian* Genius might avail
itself

itself of the Stupidity of its *British* Kinswomen.

Condemning his Mother to the deepest State of Folly and Injustice, both to herself and him, in not securing both their Fortunes, in case she would venture her Person from all Intermeddling of a Stranger; I hoped, I said, that he was in a fair Way of recovering his Part, which no after taken Husband of his Mother's could have the least Pretence, as I should apprehend, to dispose of.

Will, said Mr. *Sharp*, the Proverb runs, *Sue a Beggar and catch a Louse*. This Man we found to be such; but that we might come upon him before our whole Substance was dissipated, being well convinced that he had none of his own to answer it, my Mother and I took Coach to *Cheshire*, where we embarked for *Ireland*, in Hopes to have surprized him at unawares, and have confined him, till he had refunded all that was belonging to me at least; but the hunted Hare has ever her Ear erect, and her Doublings to make, for Avoidance of the Beagles Pursuit of her; nor could we be so private in our Motions, but that he was still a-head of us in all our Stratagems; so that, though we often heard of him, we could never once clap the Fangs of Justice upon him,
till

till being near dead hunted, we were credibly informed, he had taking Shipping for the *West-Indies*.

As to following him thither, it would have been to no Manner of Purpose: For though the Ship was bound to *Maryland*, we doubted not but he was bound elsewhere, either to be dropped by the Way, or, upon his Landing there, to be transported to some other Colony; for he would never suffer himself to be found upon the only Spot we could reasonably expect to meet with him upon.

We had many other Matters to have talked over together; but the Clock having struck two, and neither of us having dined, we by Consent adjourned to a little Eating-House, where we purposed to indulge over each other's Misfortunes.

C H A P. II.

Dine together. Sharp's Scheme to raise himself. Appoint another Metting. Bespeak Clothes. Dress gay. Keep Company. Taken for Members of Parliament. Get into Scrapes. Bailed off. At a Gaming-House. Draper's Head broke in a Scuffle. Terrifies the whole Family.

JACK and I, being loth to part so soon as we had emptied our Plates, nor chusing to carry on a Conversation, to the Exposure of our private Affairs, in a publick Room of Company, we asked the Waiter, if he could not dispose of us in some private Room, where we might drink a Cup of Beer by ourselves.

He took us up two Pair of Stairs, to a Room occupied, occasionally only, he said, when the Run of Customers happened to be too large, for procuring Accommodations below; and having set a Tankard of Beer before us, we entered seriously into Debate about what each had in View, as to his future Proceedings in Life.

Having before acquainted *Jack* of the little Modicum my Aunt had left me, and then again introducing it in my Discourse,

Jack

Jack wished with all his Heart, that he could arrive to such a Piece of good Fortune, he said; for that, was he but Master of a single hundred Pounds, he would cut a far better Figure than he did, being verily persuaded, that what a Man was in Reality was but a meer Trifle; for that the World would regard him as what he appeared to be: So that, could he but rig himself out handsomely in Clothes, he would keep the best of Company, and, by that Means, gain the Acquaintance of some one or other, who might prove advantageous to him.

Jack had harped upon this String so often during our Conference, as at last to have drawn me into his Sentiments; but I, not having half his Assurance, was confounded at the Thought of engaging myself wholly with Strangers, unless some one of my own Intimates was originally to introduce me.

Not well knowing otherwise how to dispose of myself, I told *Jack*, than for whom I never had a greater Respect for any Man breathing, that if he really suspected there might any Thing be gotten in the long run in the Society he mentioned, he should be as welcome to my Purse as if it was his own, so long as it would last; and that if nothing in the mean Time should turn up beneficial for us, by the Method he proposed,

posed, I was determined to go to Sea, and try my Fortune that Way.

Jack, still encouraging me under his first Hint, thanked me for the Favour I had expressed to him, and if I would credit him so far as thirty Pounds, he said, for Apparel, and a very few Guineas for his Pocket, he should not doubt of putting himself into some Way, whereby he might at least procure Bread.

Having always been remarkable for an Eagerness in whatever Pursuit I espoused, I gave *Jack Sharp* my Hand, to signify, that I would do as he desired: So having talked over the Affair, till we seemed to be perfect in the Design, and our Beer being ended, we parted; having first appointed a Rendezvous for the next Morning.

My Spirits exulted prodigiously, upon having met with a Friend, whom I suspected to know more of the Ways of the Town than I did; and who, from an Undauntedness quite natural to him, might push me forward in the World, which was what I was but too sensible that I wanted; so that I even longed for the Return of the Morning, that we might further confer upon our Scheme together. At length, the Hour approaching, I posted away to the House,

as precisely as possible to my Time, nor was *Sharp* ten Minutes behind me.

The Room being Top full of Gentlemen at Breakfast, we soon perceived there would be no Hopes of bringing any Thing to Conclusion there; so that, drinking each of us a Dish of Chocolate, we adjourned to the Park, as best suited to the Retirement we sought after. Here, I starting the Subject, through Impatience of being quite idle; *Jack* purposed our going to some noted Taylor, to inquire into the Fashions, and what would be properest for our Wear; when neither of us being acquainted with any Operator of that Sort, we proposed to dine at some Tavern in *Pall-Mall*, and there inquire of the Vintner himself, who would be sure to direct us to a Man of Note in his Profession.

It would be some Hours yet to Dinner-time, and I strangely wanted to be doing; for which Purpose, as I was musing, I be-thought myself that my Father had a Taylor, and that he used to make my Clothes, and be sent for to take Measure of me; nay, I could remember the Man's Face as perfectly, as if he then stood before my Eyes; but, for my Life, I could not recollect his Name, or Abode, nor think of any one who could inform me of either; till
just

just as we were leaving the Park, and then without aiming at it, what should dart in my Head, but *Barnes*, the very Name I had been so long hammering at? But then, I was as far to seek for his Dwelling; till telling *Sharp* I had recollected my Taylor, and he demanding his Name, I, even without the least Thought of the Matter, replied, one Mr. *Barnes*, in *Suffolk-street*.

This unexpected Turn, proceeding from my having formerly heard his Addition, usually placed after his Name, we were now all right again; and, instead of our Dinners, made our Way to Mr. *Barnes's*, where we entered into close Consultation upon our Habilitments.

I was mightily of Opinion for a Suit or two of full trimmed Clothes; but Mr. *Barnes* put by that Project immediately, by assuring me, if I chose to appear in the Mode, a trimmed Jockey was in the highest Taste, with any Waistcoat and Breeches that I pleased, provided they were not of the same Colour.

In short, we suited ourselves as to the Colour, and Materials, of two Jockies each, with other Parts of Dress accordingly, and, in about a Week's Time, were fit Company for the best Noblemen in the Land. We frequented then the Chocolate-houses,
Plays,

Plays, Park, Court, and other Places of genteel Resort; nor were we a whit less esteemed than the richest of them. We made some of the Party in whatever Discourse was going, and, in few Days Time, had the Honours of the Hat from most of the Gentlemen about St. James's. From hence we proceeded to each other's Names, as we passed, with the Addition of the Compliments of the Day; till meeting daily in the same Round of Persons, both Morning and Evening, we were taken for young Members come to attend the Parliament; which creeping through the House from one to another, *Sharp* heard the Woman at the Bar tell an old Customer, who enquired who we were, that we were in Town, attending the House.

Though we courted the Company of our Seniors, as best qualified, we thought, for our Interest; yet, as the young ones most courted us, we could noways avoid joining with them, tho' their Diversions were sometimes too costly for us: Nor was that what we so much regretted, as the Pranks they seduced us into, which had already laid us twice in the Watch-house all Night, from whence, half drunk, half sober, Part dressed, Part undressed, we were in the Morning conducted through the Streets, with a Mob.

Mob at our Heels, and once with a Guard of Soldiers, to Mr. Justice *De Veil's*, and might have been committed to *Bridewell*, but for the Friends of some of our drunken Comrades, who being sent for to bail them out, were so kind, as to be responsible for us too, we knowing not a single Soul, who would have stirred over his Threshold to have served us.

We began to bethink ourselves, when thoroughly sober again, what an Escape we had had, and were determined to drop our Companions as soon as possible; but after the Favour we had so lately received from their Friends, and at their Request too, we would not resolve upon it abruptly; so that we met them again the next Night, when the *Tavern* was the Word, and we accompanied them.

Here, some Women were sent for, which soon growing stale upon our Hands, after a stated Time spent in their Company, we dismissed them, and away to try our Luck in the Streets. We called in at Abundance of Houses, where generally some Mischief happened e're we left them; and at Length we straggled into a Gaming-house, where our Companions most of them played, and that pretty deep too, at *Hazard*, some winning, some loosing; but *Jack* or I, having
never

never yet handled a Die, declined it, upon Pretence of not understanding it; till at Length, being over persuaded, *Jack*, who had wittfully observed the Gamesters more than I did, jogging me; *Will*, said he, shall I set a Piece or two? I replied, that he would certainly loose them, not knowing when he was right, or wrong.

Sharp would not be advised by me; but set a Guinea, and lost it; then another, and won it; and so, backwards and forwards, till it came to his Turn to hold the Box, when he swept up thirteen Guineas. By this Time our Comerades, having had enough of it, moved off to fresh Diversion; and though *Sharp* would fain have prosecuted his Luck somewhat longer, I assuring him I would not stay, he retreated with us.

After the Business of the Night, which concluded not without Abundance of Confusion, and not only with a broken Head to my Share, but with the Murder of a Stranger, as I verily apprehended, we all took to our Heels, and each Man shifted for himself as he best could. I stole home to my Lodgings, to take Care of myself, about Two in the Morning.

I had felt the Blood trickling down my Face very fast, as I fled; but keeping it
wiped

wiped with my Handkerchief, and afterwards washing myself at a Pump in my Way, I hoped I had so far removed all Signs of my Injury, that I might get to my Chamber, without Suspicion of the Family, that I had met with any Injury; but no sooner had the Maid, who sat up for me, let me in, then, giving such a Shriek as made the whole House ring, the Wench fell into a Fit in the Entry.

What to do in the Case I knew not, or how to manage the Girl in her Disorder; however, having locked the Door, I endeavoured to take her up; but her whole Body had no more Stiffening in it, than a Piece of Tripe; nor could I make any Thing of her, she seeming to me to be stone dead.

Something was of Necessity to be done; I could no ways walk off to my Chamber, and desert the poor Creature in such a Condition; so that the next Thought that occurred was, to call some of the Family to look after her. Upon this Errand, I had near ascended the first Flight of Stairs, when my Landlady, who had heard the Outcry, and thereupon thrown her Nightgown about her; opening her Chamber-Door, and seeing me close by her, with a Candle in my Hand, screamed out, if possible,

sible, ten Times louder than the Maid had done, and retreating a Step or two fell backwards into a Chair; she laboured so for Breath, as terrified me more than all the rest; whilst my Landlord himself, whom the Cry of his Wife had alarmed to no little Degree, lay crying out, *Who's there? what are you? speak?*

In Hopes then of pacifying him, I stepped into his Room, to relate to him the Maid's Case below Stairs; when no sooner beheld he me, than he became little less terrified than the Woman, starting, and crying *Begone! I defy thee; begone!* with such other Expressions of Horror, as only a Man surprized into an Agony might be suspected to utter.

I was all this Time entreating him to declare to me the Cause of his Disturbance, assuring him, I was extremely sorry for the Accident that had happened below, and begging him to be pacified; for that the Cry which had happened there was made only by the Maid, who I believed, having sat up too long, had come to me in her Sleep, and waking upon my coming in, was seized with a Shock, at finding herself where she did not expect.

My Landlord was all this while staring at me most ghastfully; but not in the least suspect-

suspecting myself to be other than perfectly clean, after my washing, I had not the least Notion of his seeing any Thing in me that could occasion it; till growing somewhat more composed, he asked me, Are you really then *Mr. Draper*? or are you not?

Prithee, Sir, said I, rouse yourself up a little; you must certainly know me well enough, when you are thoroughly awake. Look at me, and see whether I can be any other than your Lodger, *Draper*. The Voice seems to be *Mr. Draper's*, said he; but the more I behold you, the less I suspect you to be that Gentleman. Rub your Eyes, Sir, said I, and most certainly you will find me to be none other.

I never in my Life, said he, beheld so dismal a Spectacle; Why? what have you been doing, Sir? added he; you look, to my Apprehension, much more like a murdered, than a living Man.

I could not but suspect him to be light-headed, till stepping to the Looking-glass, I was so shocked at my own Appearance, that, starting from it, I begged his Pardon for the Disturbance I had given his Family, being then perfectly satisfied, that no less could have befallen to any other Mortals upon Earth, who had been drawn out of a profound Sleep, to the Entertainment of so horrid

rid an Apparition as I then seemed to be ; for having mistaken my Aim of clearing off my Face, after washing it, with the dryer Parts of my Handkerchief, I had only rubbed it with the bloodier Parts, till it was become a meer Mask over it ; besides which, my Neckcloth and Clothes were so smeared with it, that no murdered Corps could have a more frightful Aspect.

By this Time the Apprentice and Journey-men, having heard the Uproar in the Family, were stolen down to see what was the Matter ; to whom, having lighted my Landlord's Candle, I committed himself and his Wife, whilst I sneaked up to my Chamber, to undergo a second Scouring.

My Landlord, meantime, being able to lie no longer, dressed himself and assisted his Wife, whilst the young Chaps were sent down to the Recovery of their Fellow-servant ; so that, by the Time I had reduced myself to the Condition of a living Man again, stript off my bloody Garments, and invested myself in my Night-gown, the under Members being all returned to their Senses, I waited upon them, in a less dreadful Hue than before, and severally asked their Pardons for the Confusion I had put them all into.

Having then, at their Request, informed them, that I had, in my Return home, received a Wound in my Head by Robbers, for I durst not own the Hand I had in bringing the Misfortune upon myself: I also assured them how clean I suspected I had made myself by the [Way; but that not being able to see myself, I had wholly mistaken my Purpose, and begged my Landlady to look what Sort of a Wound I had got on my Head, and, if she had any such Thing by her, to put a Plaister upon it till Morning; then, wishing I had but either Brandy or Rum in the House, that I might provide them a Tiff of Punch before their Return to Bed, which I told them would be most salutary, my Landlord taking the Hint, whilst his Wife was playing the Surgeon's Part with me, converted a Bottle of Brandy into that Liquor, of which we having all taken several hearty Goggles, we most amicably retreated to our several Apartments, in no little Degree refreshed by it.

CHAP. III.

Set upon Ways and Means. Resolve to turn Gamesters. Their Proceedings. Old Companions join them. Draper a great Winner. Go upon the Rake. Discomfit a Posse of Whores. Engage on new Pranks. Amour of Draper's. Disburdened of his Winnings. Could hang himself. Resolve to fly their old Companions.

THE Way of Life we had some Time prosecuted, frequently introducing us into Scrapes that we were not to be discharged from, but by paying our Fees, and those very often exorbitant, without the least Inlet of Profit to ourselves, by its Means, put *Sharp* and I, at our next Meeting in private, upon Ways and Means for avoiding it; and especially, as our Stock was greatly diminished, before we should have spun our Thread so fine, as to have incapacitated us for any contrary Practice.

I proposed several Methods, as promissory of Success in a piddling Way; but though *Sharp* had started no one Thing, as held preferable by him to my Offers; yet all that I started, receiving from him the very same Answers, of how can we subsist upon
C 2 this?

this? or what a Prospect is to be had from that? it was plain to me, that though he was altogether silent, as to his own Views, yet he was burdened with some mental Matter, which he longed for an Occasion to lay before me.

I therefore put it to him, whether, as I had already made various Proposals, to none of which he had assented, he had not somewhat in his own Breast, which he imagined might prove of more Utility to us; and if so, I told him, the Concealment might prove injurious to us both, for I would readily consent to practice it, unless I should be able to demonstrate, by sound Argument, that the same would prove pernicious to us.

Sharp tossed up his Head, shrugged his Shoulders, and, in half Sentences, gave me to understand, that being projected by him, was sufficient for rousing my Disapprobation, even to the most plausible Conceptions; or he had then in his Head, he said, an Undertaking, whereby we might be immense Gainers, possibly, and yet be subject to no farther Risques, than we should see proper to conclude upon.

This, indeed, I replied, if he could make it but out, was a Conclusion worthy of my Friend *Sharp*, and by no Means by me to be neglected; so that, relying upon his Capacity,

capacity, I began to urge him at once to a Discovery, assuring him of my Readiness to accord to whatever might but carry an Air of Probability with it.

What have we ever been a single Penny Gainers by, said *Sharp*, (though we have consumed many a Pound together) save by the Box and Dice, the Evening that I took upon me to game a little? from whence, said I, *Jack*, it is to be inferred, that you make your Election for Gaming. Now, you well know, that the Exercise has ever been my Aversion; nor though you by Accident brought off a few Pieces with you the Evening you mention, is it any ways deducible from thence, that you must ever do so, any more than that a Fool, having once spoken a wise Sentence, must ever after pass for a Man of Judgment; but as the succeeding Sentence will be sure to betray his Idiocy, so, I fear, lest the next Attempt of yours, boldly prosecuted, should condemn us both to Bankruptcy.

I expected just this Harangue from you, said *Sharp*, for you reply without hearing my Story out; how then should you form a Conclusion, without a true State of the Premises? I told him, I was prepared for hearing whatever he could urge in Justification

tion of his Principle, and desired him then to proceed.

Will, said he, is there any Art or Myſtery, to be ſo far the Property of one Man, as to be wholly unattainable by others? If ſo, the Myſtery of Gaming may, for ever, be an occult Science as to us; but if otherwiſe, why, under proper Documents, Obſervations, and Application, ſhould not we, as well as others, arrive at Perfection in it?

I have heard of thoſe, who from ſmall Beginings, have acquired a moſt comfortable Subſiſtence by it; nay, immense Fortunes; even to vying with the Nobility for Equipage: Why then may not we be of the Number of the Proſperous, and enrich ourſelves in like Manner thereby? At leaſt, we muſt do ſomething whiſt we have a little Stock to begin upon, or, when it ſhall be too late for the Experiment, we ſhall ſeriously lament our Inactivity.

Though all that *Sharp* had, or could ſay to me upon the Subject, wrought but little Effect on my Eſteem for the Employment: I having never conſidered of the Character of a Gameſter, without the Addition of many odious Epithets; yet, rather than be chargeable with the Decay of our Subſtance, without the leaſt Endeavour at an Augmentation of it, I told *Sharp*, that if he would
under

undertake, to procure for himself and me, due Qualifications for the Calling, so that we might appear therein with equal Credit to others of the Profession, and not be the Bubbles of the Company, upon all Parties, I would attend accurately to such Instructions as he should procure me, and apply myself as studiously upon every Occasion, as I was able; and if Fortune favoured us, well; if not, we could be but reduced at once, to the Condition a few Months more would find us in, whether we would or not.

Sharp was so pleased at finding me yielding to his Request, that he would answer for it, he said, we should thrive by it, were we but diligent in improving, to the Extent of our Capacities; for that, in his Judgment, the Man who would gain by the Card or Dice, must have a Passion for them; nor suffer any Interloper to take Footing, even in the least Corner of the Soul that had once devoted itself to them.

He added, that he had heard of Books descriptive of all manner of Chances, and with Directions for managing all Games to Advantage; these, he said, we must study at home, and frequently practice between ourselves; then, by constant Repetition of every Nod, Shrug, Wink, and Hem, we must gain such Perfection in them, as never

to be at a Plunge, for want of proceeding in Character.

We must then, he said, attend the Tables as By-standers, watching with all Sedulity every Movement of the Gamesters, and the Success of it; and lastly, he said, we must, above all Things, attend to all Quarrels and Disputes between the Players; for that, in such little Outrages, each laid open in the other, what, for the most Part, himself would wish for the Advantage of being guilty of; by which Means, we might penetrate into Secrets and Mysteries, which we should find no other Means of attaining to, and yet, once discovered, we must render them of the strictest Utility to ourselves, in our future Conduct with others.

He would advise venturing but for small Sums at first, he said, till we were perfected in the Employment; and then, to make it our Maxim, *Nothing venture, nothing have*, and push as bold as the best of them.

We had now entered upon our Post of Spectators, and Observers; and daily, at our Return, registered every Acquisition we had made there, from Day to Day, till our Notes had swelled to a very considerable Bulk. The Perusal of these, and the Reduction of them to Practice by ourselves, were the general Work of our Mornings;
dining

dining then, for the most Part, late, we dressed in the Twilight, and were abroad at the Entrance of Night.

As we frequently met some or other of our old Companions at these Resorts, it was impossible to be freed altogether from a Participation in their riotous Actions; though we avoided them all in our Powers, as destructive of our Time, and Edification, in the new Occupation we were initiating ourselves to.

Having now passed through our Time of Probation, and stored ourselves with all the Knowledge we took to be immediately necessary to our Sphere of Action, we began, now and then, to set a single Crown, or sometimes Gold, at the Hazard-Table; or often one of us imployed himself that Way, whilst the other made a Hand at Whist: Nor can I say but we came off reasonably well, being rather Gainers, upon the whole, than Losers in our Stock, after two Months piddling Practice; which fortunate Turn of our Affairs, would it answer no farther, would subsist us, without entering upon, or diminishing our main Fund.

We now suspecting ourselves to be Proficients, launched further into our Mystery; I mean, the expensive Part of it, than before, by setting and playing for round Sums:

Nor did Fortune befriend us more carelessly than before ; so that we might be now called thorough paced Gamesters, as we imagined.

Though we had avoided our old rakish Companions, as much as possibly we could ; yet one Night, pretty late, they poured in so thick upon us, as to be engaged in the Height of our Play ; nor made *Sharp* and I, now better instructed in the Science than themselves, any inconsiderable Profit by them : For the Company dropping off one by one, the Clock had scarce struck Twelve, when we found ourselves deserted by all but our old Comrades ; who, though they were Losers, still coveting to play on, we could not be so ungenteel as to leave them, whilst we felt the Advantage over these raw Gamesters so sensibly burdening our Pockets ; so that we held on with them till past One o'Clock, when, being weary of the same Thing over and over again for so long a Time, they all started, in Quest of some fresh Entertainment.

I, having made above fourscore Pounds of it that Night, *Sharp* and I were so cheary thereupon, as to be inscrupulously prepared for any Debauchery that our Company should please to propose to us ; when

one

of them started, the scouring *Covent-Garden*, the *Strand*, and the *Hundreds of Drury*.

No sooner were the Words pronounced by one, than we all gave into the Scheme; then roaring and halloing down Stairs upon each others Backs, we rushed into the Street, intent upon our purposed Enterprize.

Our Corps consisted of nine as desperate young Fellows, when ripened for Action, as were to be met with in the Liberty of *Westminster*, and happy was the modest Woman who could avoid us.

The Night being exceeding dark, many of the Lamps burnt out, and the Weather somewhat mizzling, one of us leading the Way, the rest all followed him, into one of the Taverns in *Russel-street*; where bespeaking a good Fire, and Plenty of Wine, we ordered the Drawer out, for furnishing us each with a Female Companion.

We drank about Bumpers, in the mean Time, as if, though we were come late to it, we meant to overtake the lingering Sot, who might have been over his Bottle all Night; so that soon growing merry, we were ready for the next presenting Mischief, be it of what Nature or Kind soever. Nor was I, now I had enlisted myself into the Party, in the least studious of saving, having
my

my Pocket loaded with Money. Our Girls were brought; each Man his Bird; but after a few Frolicks with them, some of our Wrongheads having proposed a new Undertaking; for going down to *Billingsgate*, and routing the Fishwomen, then filling our Bellies with Oysters, and returning; this every one assenting to, most vociferously, our Girls were soon turned adrift, and happy had it been for some of them, had that been all they had suffered: For seeing us all half Seas over, and hoping for a better Market than they had made of most of my Companions; complaining of the Shortness of their Pay, they all began to mutter, vowing they would not stir, till they had received Half a Guinea a-piece from us. What? did we think they would be called out of their Beds at that Time o'th' Night, merely to pleasure us, without being paid for it? They had come at our Call, and were ready to accommodate us to the best of their Power, and if we knew not our own Minds, and would dismiss them, must they have but their Labour for their Pains? or did we think it such an Honour to them to attend us, that they ought to look out for no other Reward?

High Words arising on both Sides, I gave my Girl, who was one of the sweetest

tem-

tempered, and most beautiful looking Creatures that in my Life I had ever beheld, (merely for the Sake of her seeming Innocence, and because I could not find in my Heart to quarrel with her) the Sum demanded by the others. Then taking her to the further End of the Room, let thee and I, my Dear, said I, be Spectators of this Debate; but, for thy Sake, I am resolved to be no Party in it.

From Words, they proceeded to Blows; for one of my Comrades giving the most masculine Strumpet of them all, and who had erected her Bristles at her Partner, as if she would have fallen foul of him, a violent Shove through the Room Door, by Means whereof she fell flat on the Landing-place at the Stairs Head; the rest of the Sisterhood resenting the Treatment of their Sex, fell some to Work with the Candlesticks, others with the Bottles and Glasses, till the Shot flying so thick from every Quarter, as to endanger the whole Circle; my Girl and I, who had agreed upon a Neutrality, turning the Key of a little Closet by the Window, crept both in, for the Preservation of our outward Members; whilst the Breeches routing the Petticoats, with the most extensive Outcries and Confusion, drove the latter, Neck and Heels together, and one over the
the

the fallen Members of the other, down the Stair-case; then marching over them triumphantly into the Street; after several Abuses bestowed upon them, they continued their Rout to *Billingsgate*, without ever once missing me from their Company.

All Things being now silent, my Lady and I ventured forth from our Retreat, when, to my thinking, by the little Terror that had seized her, she was become ten times more charming than before; inso-much, that not being able abruptly to part from her, I protested she should take one Pint with me, to compose herself before she went home.

The pretty Creature shewing not the least Reluctance at complying to my Request, we, from one Step to another, at length concluded upon spending the Remainder of the Night together.

She had assured me, that she had a very handsome one Pair of Stairs Floor, in a Court within a few Doors of the Tavern, and not inelegantly furnished; which set me so agog for the Possession of her, that, before we had drank half our Wine, my Impatience had urged our Retreat thither. We took a Bottle of Sherry home with us, in case we should be drouthy before Morning, which she advised me by all Means to; nor did

did ever besotted Puppy conceive more approaching Happiness, than I had promised myself with my new Bedfellow.

No sooner had we entered our Lodging-Room, than Madam must taste of our Wine, and did so, whilst I was most eagerly undressing me for Bed. Then, insisting that I must pledge her, she filled me a Bumper, which I drank to her best Affections. This she again pledged me in, and no sooner was I laid along, than she brought me a second Glass, which she said, was all that she could then afford me, after which she would follow me to Bed.

I must own, I had not the least Relish for it, the first being a Glass of the worst Liquor I had ever, to my Remembrance tasted, of the vinous Kind, and therefore I desired to be excused from it; but she seemed so anxious for my receiving it, that no more Time might be lost in the Contest, I tossed it down at a Gulp, that I might not be at the Trouble of palating it, and then beg'd her to dispatch, and to Bed to me.

All that I can farther recollect of this Amour is, that for the very few Minutes that I was sensible I was without her, I could not but imagine her to be very dilatory, and to make use of affected Delays; but soon involuntarily dropping into a profound Sleep,

I awoke no more, till, as near as I can guess, about Six o'Clock in the Morning.

I felt about immediately for my Bedfellow, both with my Hands and Feet, but no living Soul could I find. I called several Times, *My Dear! my Dear!* but no one answering me, I then felt whether any other Impression had been made on the Feather-Bed, save the one I lay in; when it being apparent to me, that no one had entered the Sheets that Night but myself, I began to be somewhat uneasy at my Situation, and resolved to continue it no longer; but at all Events to rise, and take Flight, before the approaching Day-Light should expose me, to the Scorn and Derision of the Neighbourhood; for having never, in all my Gaieties, been surprized into such a Transaction before, I could not but suspect, that every Person I should meet would point at me.

Having cast myself out of Bed, and recollected where I had disposed of my Apparel the foregoing Night, I groped about in the Dark for them; but though I recovered my Coat and Waistcoat with all Readiness, I was wholly to seek for my Breeches; tho' I very well remembered to have laid these, under them, in the same Chair.

My Impatience for departing was so urgent, as to torment me excessively for this Dis-

Disappointment; but go, I could by no Means, without my Breeches; so that having at length dressed myself tolerably, all but these, I poked about in the Dark all round the Room, till, after two or three broken Shins and Bruises, I at length found them upon a little Table between the two Windows; when snatching them thence in a perfect Rapture, my Rejoicing was soon turned to Sorrow, not only for what I might have done of Mischief, but for the instant Clatter that accompanied my Seizure of them, which, at that still Time of the Morning, struck me with such an Horror, lest all the Family should directly have been upon me, that I could scarce recover myself for drawing my Breeches on; but hearing no one stir, how was I, on the other Hand, shocked, at the Lightness of my Breeches then, to what they felt in my Hand the Night before; for I had then taken Notice of their Weight to be two or three Pounds, with all my Winnings in them, whereas they, at present, scarce felt equivalent to so many Ounces.

I waited for no other Argument before, thrusting my Hand into the Pocket I had stowed my Cash in, I was too well convinced, that, however my first Attempt the foregoing Evening had been successful, I
had

had made but a losing Game of the latter, for not a single Shilling had my innocent Lady left me.

I began to exclaim against the whole Sex, as a Curse to the other Works of the Creation; and then, even at Providence, for not either affording Man a deeper Penetration into the Hearts of each other, whereby innumerable Mischiefs might be suppressed, or at least prevented; or for not distinguishing the false Heart, by some special Note of the Countenance; for, said I, that the foulest Affections of a Devil, should be shrouded under the fairest Appearance of an Angel, is insufferable.

I raved on in this, and such like Manners, till, fearing the Morning would surprize me. I descended the Stairs, in Hopes of soon delivering myself into the Street; and at the same Time, under the Loss of my Money, solacing myself, in that I had regained my Cloathing; for had that, as it as easily might, been all carried off too, my Circumstances had, indeed, been most deplorable.

I resolved, upon gaining the Street, to take particular Notice of the House I was in, how situated, and, by some Remark or other, to find it out again; little doubting, but, by some Stratagem or other, I should lay hold of Madam in a few Days, and re-
cover,

cover, at least, Part of my Gold back again.

Being arrived near to the Foot of the Stair-case, as I judged by the Number of Steps I had taken; just as I hoped to have landed at the Bottom, and for that Purpose made rather more Haste than before, I ran my Forehead, with such Violence, against something that opposed me, as almost knocked me backwards, and, at the same Time, made the whole House ring. This, again, put me upon prosecuting my Escape with more Alacrity, though all my Endeavours proved fruitless; for, though I left not an Inch of the surrounding Wainscot unscrutinized, yet could I not even feel a Mouse-Hole to creep out at; which threw me all over into a Trembling.

By this Time, I heard some body upon the two Pair of Stairs over my Head, and, by the Treading upon the Stairs, discovered more Feet than one Pair. My Heart had well nigh deserted my Body, or at least had retired to my Heels; for now I stood watching for my Fate from those, who, as they were coming to seize me, might also intend my Destruction too, lest, by my future inquiries, I should contribute to theirs.

The next Step of the foremost of these, brought his Body full butt against mine, whilst

whilst by the Heel of his Shoe upon my Foot, he almost jammed two of my Toes to a Mummy. This, or far worse I would have taken from him, to have fairly escaped into the Street; but the Fellow seizing me, after a Volley of Oaths, to unlock his Throat with that Morning, cried, *Who the Devil are you? what have we here?* Then, without giving me Room for a Reply, he roared out, *Thieves! Thieves!* as loud as ever he could bawl, as also did his Companion behind him, who also called out for a Light.

He who had first seized me, delivering me over to the other, first unlocked a Door at the Foot of the Stair-case, and then entering the Kitchen, his Companion drew me thither after him.

The first Man then stepping backwards, told his Fellow he was going for a Rope; swearing heartily, that as he had caught me in the Fact, in his House, he would never be at the Expence of a Week's Attendance at the *Old-Bailey*, but would himself hang me up instantly: Nor, indeed, could he see any Harm in saving himself the above Charges upon me, since, in a few Days Time, I must with equal Certainty suffer the same Fate at *Tyburn*.

The Shock this Story gave me, brought both my Knees to the Ground, and my
Eyes

Eyes to a plentiful weeping. I gave them an Account of myself, how I came there, and what I had lost by the young Woman; but that I gave myself no Concern about, and only beg'd they would shew me to the Street, and discharge me, assuring them, that I had not taken the least Scrap or Thread whatsoever from them.

One of them demanded, what Noise it was he heard near an Hour before, like the breaking of some China, Earthen-ware, or Pans? I gave him a punctual Account how it happened; but what it was, I declared my Ignorance of.

One of them then running up Stairs for a Candle, whilst the other was binding my Eyes round with my own Handkerchief; upon his Return reported, that I had thrown down and broken, both a Dressing-glass, and a large China Punch-bowl, and that he demanded fifty Shillings for them, which, if ever I escaped his Halter, I should pay him.

My Plea of Insolvency, availed me little, he being persuaded, he told me, that it was all a Lie, and forged, only as an Argument to get off by; but after he had heartily sweated me by his Threats of the Halter, and even putting it round my Neck, having extracted from me more Oaths in the Lump
than

than I had ever sworn in my whole Life before, that I would, as the very next Night after dark, according to his Order, deposit five Guineas, wrapped up in a Paper, behind such a Post in *Covent-Garden*; in Consideration of my Youth, he said, he would lead me into the Street blindfolded, and there, when he should see fit, dismiss me; but, that if I offered to run, or cry out, or make the least Noise, till licensed by him so to do, he would run me through the Body with a Knife he would carry in his Hand for the Purpose, let what would be the Consequence of it.

Having solemnly sworn to obey him in this also, we sallied forth; when after near a Quarter of an Hour's Walk, coming to an Alley, they turned me down, charging me to keep streight forwards, till, at such a Distance, they would call to me to remove the Handkerchief, threatening nothing but instant Death for my Disobedience.

I was under too great Anxiety to decline whatever was enjoined me, and away I walked; but cautiously, expecting every Moment the Watch-word for uncovering my Eyes; but, had I proceeded to the Land's End, it would never have overtaken me: For no sooner had I began my Tour, but they escaped, far enough from any Pursuit

suit of mine, had I been ever so intent upon it. However, lest they should creep softly after me, to watch my Behaviour, I kept moving on; till running against a Wall I could proceed no farther. Then, daring just to remove a Corner of my Bandage, and perceiving it to be Peep of Day, I took Courage, upon seeing the Coast clear, to venture back again; I found myself in *Wild-street*, and from thence I proceeded to my Lodging.

I had scarce set me down in my Chamber, before (reflecting upon my last Night's Folly, with Remorse and Shame for my Proceedings) though I had been so studious for avoiding the Rope when it was to be forced upon me, I was prompted, by the strongest Inclination imaginable, for substituting one of my Garters in the Place of it; that, by parting with my Life at once, I might avoid the Confusion and Ignominy I was in Expectation of from *Sharp*, when he should come to know my Foible, and that I had lost every Penny of my Winnings.

An Excess of Fatigue, as I sat reflecting how to behave, threw me into a Slumber, from which I awoke not till near Noon; nor had I then so done, had not *Sharp*, who had missed me the last Night, and fearing
some

some Accident might have befallen me, come stamping into my Room.

This roused me; when asking what had become of me, I recapitulated my past Misfortune to him, and from him, heard the Issue of their Walk to *Billingsgate*; but our late Loss overbalancing all other Considerations; after many serious Arguments on both Sides, preventive of all further Engagements with our old Companions, with whom we could look only for Ruin; we came to a positive Resolution, never to see them more, but instead of the Haunts we had heretofore used, to look out for others, to avoid them.

CHAP. IV.

Meet a School-fellow, Tom Parnel, Drawer at a Tavern. Tom's Story. Find out each other's Circumstances. Tom's Project to get Money. They offer to join him. Return home. Meet Tom again. Arguments previous to his Project. Tom's solemn Preface. They take an Oath of Secresy.

HAVING now parted ourselves from our turbulent Companions, after no small Consumption of our Stock with them,

as we were at Dinner one Day, at a Tavern near *Charing-Cross*, bemoaning our hard Fortune; though we knew we had nothing to squander away; yet, as neither chose to look more sneaking than the other, whilst our Hearts grew more and more open to each other, from a mere Similitude of Circumstances, and equal Want of Solace; tho' we at first called for only a single Pint between us, yet the Repetition of past Transactions, by Degrees, introduced such a Fund of Business upon us, that our Hearts therewith gradually enlarging, our next Demand was of a Bottle, being morally certain it would cease to run, before we should have finished the Topicks we were momentarily starting and engaging upon.

Towards the Close of the Bottle, having drained our Discourse almost to the Lees, relative to past Transactions, we judging it Time to part, had appointed to meet again in the Park next Day, having nothing more material to imploy ourselves in, now we had quitted our former Haunts, and had rang the Bell for our Bill; when who should enter upon us, to ask whether we called, but one of our former School-mates, upon whom we had for some Time before been conversing. My Back was towards him; but *Sharp*, fronting the Door, no sooner

VOL. I. D called

called him to Mind, than *Tom*, said he, (for his Name was *Thomas Parnel*) what Wind has blown you hither? How long have you been invested with the Order of the blue Apron?

Master *Sharp*! said *Tom*, I am heartily glad to see you well; and then drawing forward-er, and casting his Eye upon me too, Mr. *Draper*! said he, your Servant; how long have you been in Town, Gentlemen, that I have never before seen you? We told him, that having several Months ago met each other accidentally in the Park, which was the first Time we had ever exchanged a Word together since we left *Winchester*, we had been ever since close Intimates, and inquired how long he had followed that Occupation, and whether he was Apprentice in that House? Desiring him, if he could spare a Quarter of an Hour, and would sacrifice it to our Society, that he would then draw a Chair, and sit down by us?

Tom Parnel answered, with all his Heart, it would be most grateful to him; for that, as their Evening Members were none of them yet arrived, they had but one more Company in the House, who having dined there as well as ourselves, were not broke up yet; but we must excuse his Absence now and then, he said, if the Bar-Bell should
ring,

ring, in which Case, he must be obliged to attend there.

I then taking up the Bottle to drink *Tom's* Health, and it not running half a Glass, *Jack Sharp* and I eying each other, scarce a Moment had passed, before we jointly requested *Tom* to procure us another Bottle; for we could no ways engage him, we thought, in our Conversation, without making him drink a Glass with us.

Having now our Liquor before us, we fell upon our own Affairs again, and asked *Tom* who put him Apprentice there? for we remembered, he had depended much upon an Uncle at *London*. To this *Tom* replied, that true it was, he had flattered himself with vast Expectations from his Uncle, who from a Child had taken and educated him as his own Son; but that just before he was to have been bound Apprentice to his Uncle, to the Trade of a Woollen Draper, his Uncle failing, a Commission issued against him, and his Effects were swept away by his Creditors; so that, being at a Loss for a Support, he entered into his Master's Service, not as an Apprentice, but as a Waiter only, at a stated Salary, and Vails; but he that could get fairly out of such a slavish Post was, in his Mind, a much happier Man than himself

ever should be, whilst he continued in it; for that, could he but keep his Head above Water in any other Way, he would with Abundance of Satisfaction relinquish it.

One Word drawing on another, *Tom*, at length, dived into my Circumstances, and *Jack's*; when he told us, he had often canvassed it over in his own Mind, how he, and another or two, might pick up a genteel Livelihood upon Occasion.

Jack and I, both, then snapping at this, replied, that either of us would be glad of pursuing any Method for our Advancement, and wished him to inform us what it was that he could propose for the genteel Livelihood he mentioned; when he need be under no Fear, but one, or both of us, would assist him in it.

Tom replied, that Matters were not thoroughly yet ripe for Execution, he having not wholly digested them; but, possibly, at some future Opportunity, he might lay his Project before us, for our Approbation; tho' he was already persuaded, in his own Mind, of the Success of it, under cautious and judicious Management.

Jack Sharp and I were so sensibly affected by the Report of any probable Means of procuring a Subsistence, and especially of a genteel Livelihood, as *Tom* had pronounced it,

it, that we were both agog for the Discovery ; nor would we submit to a Put-off, till some future Day, of what we esteemed so material, lest some one else intervening, should trip up our Heels, and gain an Interest in this doughty Project in our stead: So that we, one after another, put so many insnaring Queries to *Tom* upon the Head, as would have been impossible for him to have altogether evaded, had not, just in the Crisis of our Hopes, the Bar-Bell rung; when *Tom* starting up, beg'd us to excuse him, but he would wait upon us as soon as possible again.

Numberless were the Ideas that crowded up our Brains, during *Tom Parnel's* Absence, relative to this genteel Livelihood he had mentioned, in which we took ourselves to be so interested, as by no Means to quit Sight of it again, if possible. As to a Livelihood, had that alone been promised us, we should have made but light of it; but a genteel Livelihood, our Stock no ways convincing us of, was what still aggravated our Impatience for an Eclaircissement.

We had run through the whole Chain of Gentlemanlike Employments; but could not, from any the least Hint of *Tom's*, fix upon any one for our Purpose, in Preference to another; till we became so anxious

for his Return, as to think every Moment an Hour, till we should see him again; and most extravagant were our Expectations upon his Arrival, both of us resolving, without engaging ourselves in any other Subject, still to prosecute what we so earnestly sought after, nor to let it drop, till we should become Masters of it.

But never, sure, suffered two impetuous Claimants under a severer Disappointment than ourselves, when *Tom*, entering to us, ran, and snatching up the Bottle, dear Gentlemen, said he, I will once more steal a Moment to drink your Healths in, it being the last I shall obtain this Evening; for our Company arriving very fast below, my whole Time, from this Instant, will be occupied by them; then, tipping off his Glass, he left us.

This Evil appearing to be without Remedy, we resolved to compose ourselves as well as possible under the Misfortune, by regaining the earliest Opportunity of another half Hour's Discourse with our Friend *Tom* again, the very next Day; and as we had already informed ourselves, that his most vacant Moments were, the Interval of Time between the latest of his Customers Dinner-time, and the earliest of their Evening Appearance, we resolved to dine there
again

again the next Day, but somewhat later than before, to save the Expence of Wine, in Proportion to the Time we must spend there before *Tom* should be recalled to his Evening's Duty.

Being thus far agreed upon our future Proceedings, we just guzzled down the Remainder of the Wine, that we might not leave it behind us, and away to our several Apartments, in as direct Lines as the Overbalance of our Crowns would permit us; for not having been used to such a Quantity, we were both, by far, too top-heavy to be steady in our Paces.

As for my own Part, I slept but little all Night, for reflecting first upon my approaching Felicity, of living genteelly, beyond all my past Expectation; and then, lest slipping the offered Opportunity, I might by any Means be jostled out of this advantageous Occurrent; nor upon comparing Notes the next Day, could I discover from *Jack's* Account of the preceding Night, that he was a whit less restless than myself; for the Bones and Muscles may wrap themselves up in what Security they please; but unless the Mind concurs with them, the whole Man gains but a Trifle of Rest from Recumbency.

We met at the appointed Rendezvous in the Park, where we again pleased ourselves upon the Prospect of living genteely, that being the main Article we had in View; and at the Hour we had pitched upon for the Purpose, we retreated again to the Tavern, bespoke our Dinner, and Bottle, and desired *Tom*, so soon as ever he should find himself disengaged, to spend a little Time with us.

It was near Five o'Clock, before he could sit down with us; when telling us, he was now pretty well discharged from the Hurry, he had past some of his latest Hours in; we began to recal the interrupted Subject of the foregoing Day, by a downright Demand upon him, of what Method he had to communicate to us, whereby he himself might be delivered from the servile Life he led, and both himself and we might be introduced to the genteel Livelihood that he had proposed to us?

Tom, not expecting so home a Thrust, seemed somewhat abashed at it; till, recovering himself, Gentlemen, said he, every Means, we all know, may not be the most agreeable to every Inclination; for which Reason, it will ill become me to divulge mine, till I can be more ascertained of your ready Concurrence with it: Nor choose I to

cmo.

communicate it, till, from a closer Familiarity, I may do it more fearless of the future Consequences.

Tom, said *Jack*, you have heard from us both, of the Narrowness of our Circumstances, and of the Dread we both live in of a future State of the most contemptible Indigence; from whence, you may have every Reason to surmise, that we shall join Hand in Hand with you in every attainable Method for our Advancement: Nay, lest you should be so scrupulous of our Honour, as to conceive we should endeavour to supplant you in the Undertaking, by appearing therein ourselves, exclusive of you; for my Part, I am both ready and willing to oblige myself, by the most solemn Ties imaginable, by no Means to attach myself to the Calling, but in Conjunction with you, and subject to your Privy and Approbation, and for your joint Interest and Benefit; nor is my Friend, *Draper*, otherwise disposed, I durst answer for him.

I then, concurring in all that *Jack* had proposed, assured him, that rather would I submit to the Loss of my Right-hand, nay even of my very Life itself, than condescend, in the least Article to be divulged to me, to his Prejudice; the Whole of *Jack's* Views, as I verily believed, and of

my own, as I could in the strongest Manner assert, being only, conjointly with him, to engage in the Provision of a genteel Livelihood, to our equal Emolument, by the Means he had to offer us.

Jack then, prefacing his Discourse with the Frustration of his former Expectations, which having elevated his Mind above the groveling Herd of those, who having never seen, or taken better Things into their View, could subscribe to the meanest Debasement of their Natures, barely for a Subsistence; that, he said, had rendered him unapt for the slavish Occupations of Life, without repining. He declared, that he could esteem himself no other than a Prisoner, or Slave, whilst he found himself subject to the Will of any other Man; and though he thereby was released from the Want of Food and Raiment, yet human Nature in him, which was in itself free, wrought so forcibly against a State of Confinement to another's Pleasure, as already, more than once, to have put him upon the Experiment, how readily he could maintain himself from his own Genius; every of which Trials, he affirmed, had answered even beyond his Expectation; nor in the least doubted he, but with the conjoint Aid of one or two Partners, zealous for the Undertaking,

dertaking, and inseparably united in Heart, as well as Interest, if prosecuted with Understanding and Spirit, the Occupation he would propose to us would fully answer the Character of providing us genteel Livelihoods.

Previous therefore, he said, to all future Explanations of his Mind to us, and in order to secure him from every future Attempt of Artifice, or Prejudice from us, he must insist upon an Oath from each of us, not only for our Taciturnity, as to the main Design, and for our conjoint Assistance therein; but that we would, in future, avoid every Step whatever, and that at the Peril of our own Lives, and submit to the Loss of them, rather than act any ways prejudicially to the Partnership, or to either of the Parties concerned in it.

Both *Jack* and I were so anxious for an Account of the Business, that it would have been difficult to propound that Thing to us, which we would not have acquiesced in, for the Knowledge of it: So that both of us heartily confessing, that the Terms he proposed were most just, *Tom* having fetched a Bible, and framed an Oath proper for his, and, as he then asserted, our own Security too, we all took it most greedily; and then shaking Hands round, and kissing each other,

other, in Token of an inseparable Affection, Tom began to harangue us upon the Head, as follows.

CHAP. V.

Tom *barangues* them. *His Argument in Favour of the Highway. Account of his own Transactions. Descant upon Tom's Proposal. Agree to it. Tom's proper Hints.*

YOU are all sensible, my Friends, said he, that the World, and all the living Creatures in it, were originally made for Man; if then the living Creatures, much more were the inanimate Parts of the Creation at his Dispose; which plainly demonstrates to me, that they are, by the original Institution and Law of Nature, equally the Property of all. What then has created the Difference which we at this Day find? and that Inequality we feel in the Distribution of mundane Benefits? Why truly, no more than this, that some have at all Times past been active, and some indolent; till these have been made the Property of those, who, by having grasped insatiably at all Things, have left nothing behind for the indolent, and future active, at this Day to enjoy, but
what

what must pass through their Hands to them.

What? my Friends, then could be more politick, than for these Possessors of all Things, having Power over their poorer Brethren, to institute Laws for the Conservation of their ill-gotten Gains in their own Hands? This therefore they did, without the least Assent of the Defrauded; who, for Want of Power to overhaul Things, have ever since suffered them to run on in the Channel these Gripers had placed them in; but tell me, are Laws made by a Junto, by one interested Part of a Constitution alone, binding, without the Consent of the Community? No, trust me, they are not; and he that is but blessed with a Share of Spirit, will condemn them, and as far as in him lies, aim at reinstating Matters in their primitive Course.

To familiarize this, added *Tom*, by an uncontestable Example; have not the Kings of the Earth several distinct Kingdoms in sole Property, as they call it, when they would ward off a more potent Neighbour from intermeddling therein? Hold they not, for the most Part, these their several Sovereignties under Treaties with the neighbouring Princes, and even their Guaranties? But what of all that? Is there a Man of them

them therefore, who, spying but his Advantage over his Brother Monarch, and where he can securely seize some Territory of his, that ever neglects the Opportunity of annexing it to his own; till some one more powerful than he, makes Prey of it again for his own Use?

Is there an Animal, added he, in the Brute Creation, scarce, but has some other that he feeds upon? Is not all Nature conducted by Opposition, and thereby maintained, against the superior Power, one Element of another, one Creature of another? What then will ensue, if all Men are of the same Mind, but Indolence and Stupidity? These are the Considerations that have long biaffed me, to make the most of that Power entrusted to me by Nature, of which, pray let me have your Opinion, Gentlemen, added he?

Jack and I had sat gaping at each other, and then at *Tom*, for a long Time, waiting when this tedious Harangue would find a Conclusion; till, perceiving it to be wound up, under a Request of our Opinions, we frankly acknowledged the Truth of great Part of his Positions; as that they, whose Business it was to impose Laws themselves upon others, were frequently the first to infringe upon them; and likewise, that Might was
but

little studious of Right, where it had a favourite Project to execute; admitting, that the Example he had produced was fully expressive of what he intended by it; but yet, could not we, as we told him, invent, how all the Preamble he had made, tended to our subsisting genteelly by Business.

Tom replied, that Mankind having taken up sundry unfavourable Notions upon Trust, without ever once weighing their Validity, it would generally cause no slender Consumption of Time, to remove those Prejudices from Mens Minds, before they were prepared for the Receipt of more generous and illimited Ideas; for that nothing making stronger Impressions upon the Mind, than Positions inculcated in early Life, not one Man in ten was prepared to abandon them, upon the most judicious Arguments, if not framed upon the Turn he had been accustomed to, without producing to him the most undeniable Examples, which were ever more convictive than Precepts.

As to the Occupation he had to propose to us, he said, that the immediate Outset would be but inconsiderable, the whole Sum not amounting to more than twenty Pounds a-piece, which would amply furnish us, till Returns would be made us, sufficient

cient to rank us with Gentlemen, from the Profits of our Employment.

Look'ye! *Tom*, said I, you have now wound us up to such a Pitch, that we can patiently attend no longer, without a Disclosure of the Mystery itself: For, in our Opinions, this dwelling upon the Outworks only, will never make us Masters of the Fort, which is what we alone desire; therefore, without more Circumlocution, declare the Occupation we are to engage in, and then we may guess at the Profits.

Tom replied, that his sole Aim in all he had said, had only tended to the Subversion of common Prejudices from our Imaginations, and to the establishing certain undeniable Principles in our Minds, under which we should more inscrupulously embrace his Positions; but that, having so done, he should, as briefly as possible, display his Meaning to us.

We neither of us, added *Tom*, seem to be Strangers to the others indigent Circumstances. We each want to mend them, which can no ways be done, but by a Circulation of Cash, from the Pockets of such as abound, into ours, who stand in Need of it. This, added he, is the Design and View that all Men professing Business set out with, though by different Ways and Means. Some

can truckle to manual Arts and Labour, others to Confinement, like Galley Slaves, to the Circuit of their Shop, but without Fear of overworking themselves. The Lawyer spends his Lungs in crying up a bad Cause, as the most righteous Case he ever met with in his Practice; the Parson consumes his Hours, both Night and Day, upon distinguishing Right from Wrong; and the Statesman cajoles his Master into Security, whilst he is playing his Game behind the Curtain; but what are the Views of all these, but a Translation of the Cash of the one into the other's Pocket, or truly speaking, a Sort of picking Pockets? Now, Gentlemen, continued he, since this is the Way of all the World, why should not we, by fairer Methods, obtain the same End; and without deceiving our Customers under false Colours and Pretences, nobly demand Contributions from such as are able to spare them to us; and, in Case of Refusal, carve for ourselves?

You would almost persuade me to believe you intend us for the Road, *Tom*, said *Jack*. Speak out, if that is your Meaning, said he? It is, said *Tom*; nor is there a more safe, easy, or thriving Trade now on foot, under judicious Management; but dangerous, *Tom*, said I. Not in the least, replied

replied *Tom*, if you run not your own Neck into the Mischief; and since I have already explained myself, and we are all under an Oath of Secresy, I shall the less scruple to inform you, that I can practically prove my Assertion: For upon my Uncle's failing, whilst every Thing was putting under Sequestration, I seized upon a few Pounds, before they fell into the Creditors Hands; and having nothing else to turn my Hand to, by way of improving my small Stock, and to keep myself from Idleness, I purchased myself a Nag and Pistols, and sallied forth upon my Adventures; wherein, had I met with less Prosperity, I had still continued the Calling; but, being Gainer of a clear hundred and twenty Pounds, in the first Week, I fell into a Gaming-house, where my Stock nightly fluctuating, rather than recede a Loser, I followed it till every Farthing was gone, and I had sold my Horse, and had gotten myself in Debt some Pieces; when accidentally hearing of this Place, I stepped into it for ready Bread, nor have I ever seen my gaming Companions since. Now, had I pushed my first Undertaking, I had been rich by this Time; but I was so melancholy at pursuing it alone, that I forsook it with but little Regret,

gret, having ever been a Lover of Company.

There are but few Requisites, added *Tom*, to form a compleat Master of the Art; but, as I shall not now have Time to demonstrate these to you, I must defer them to the next Opportunity; only this I shall now add, that as the Occupation will not only afford you, but require several Shifts of the best of Cloathing, so you will be prepared for associating with Men of the highest Ranks, and in the most polite Places too, these being ever the least suspicious.

The Bar-Bell having rung for some Time before *Tom* had concluded, he could not then stay for our Reply; nor any longer, than to obtain our Promise for dining there the next Day.

No sooner was *Tom* gone, than *Jack* and I, with vast Impatience, sat watching which should first hear the other's Sentiments of what had passed, each being desirous of knowing them, before he exposed his own; till tired, by the Continuance of a Silence which I could propose no absolute Conclusion to; Well, *Jack*, said I, what do'st think of our old Friend *Tom*'s Proposal for making Gentlemen of us at once?

Jack, humming, replied, there had, most undoubtedly, been Money gotten that Way;
and

and Hanging too, *Jack*, said I. It was true, he said, there had so; but, in his Opinion, more than Half of those who came to untimely Ends, owed them more to their own Folly, than to any Necessity from their Calling; nor could he think, but that, if a Man took Care how he behaved in that Case, he might grow grey in the Trade, and at last die as honestly as his Neighbours; for that he had observed, in his little Experience in Life, that not Dishonesty in the general was held punishable, or gave a Man the least Discredit with his Neighbours; but that it was some particular Species of it that a Man was stigmatized for; and that, only in the Judgment of the stupid World, who, had it laid the same Odium upon all, must have drawn all under the same Condemnation: So that he who goes upon the Highway to take a Purse, added *Jack*, defrauds another, it is true; but as he does it not by over-reaching him in a Bargain, neither does the Tradesman, who gilds over the Defects of his Wares, and swears them sound, take the Purse. But which is most guilty, judge you?

For my Part, added *Jack*, if it were not for the nasty Chance a Man stands, if he comes to be taken and convicted, I should be for trying my Fortune upon the Road, with

of two Modern Adventurers. 69

with good Company. What say you to it? demanded he.

I told him, that as Matters at present were situated, I could not say, but a Share of their Earnings might be agreeable enough to me, were it not for the annexed Penalty; but, as *nothing venture, nothing have*, and as a Recruit must soon be procured some how or other, I had half a Mind to cast my Lot amongst them, and put it to the Test, *a gay Life, or an Halter*.

In short, we became so well apprized of each others Sentiments before we parted, as to furnish ourselves upon our Pillows that Night with sufficient Resolutions for standing to Tom's Proposal; and now, so eager were we of engaging in closer Conference about it, that we met in the Park a full Hour before our Appointment, where we fell too, without Ceremony, upon our new Undertaking, as upon a Thing that had been previously concluded upon, and no longer waited for Arguments to persuade to it.

Tom, not perfectly knowing what Temper he had left us in the foregoing Evening, looked not a little shy upon us the next Day; for as to himself, he having published the Villain within him, had we been retentive of our Honesty still, as for what

what he knew we might, he must have been consequently odious to us; so that he behaved but very queerly, till *Jack* told him, we must all be Brethren at last: For that he and I having considered his Proposal (tho' we conceived it to be dangerous) had agreed, that Death was preferable to Poverty, and were determined to take our Chance with him; but as he had gained some Experience by his former Practice, and had reflected upon the Calling more accurately than we had as yet had Time for, we must desire him to perfect us in all that he knew, relating to the Affair, that we might be as much Master of the Theory of our Art as possible, before we should practically engage ourselves in it.

Tom's Eyes sparkling at what *Sharp* had reported, and his Countenance resuming a brilliant Air; my best of Friends, said he, you may command me, in Life or Death, to your Service. O! that I had but sooner met with you! I make no Doubt, but instead of the humble Waiter as I now am, I had been Master of my Hundreds, and had been Guest at the House I now serve in.

Gentlemen, said he, you must reasonably believe me to be but slenderly provided of Cash, from the indigent Station you have found me in; nor am I Master of more

than

than six Guineas, and some running Silver, which will be far too short for my necessary Equipment: For first, a speedy Beast must be procured for each of us; a safe and expeditious Retreat, being no less material than a resolute Onset; for that, to which soever Side Victory inclines, we must never study to maintain our Forces upon the Field of Battle.

Now, if either of you, my good Friends, said *Tom*, will but assist me with a few Pieces to equip myself out, I care not how soon we are in Action; nor need you fear Repayment, even possibly by the Returns of our first Sally.

There is another Thing, my Friends, added he, which though I could wish completed before the Commencement of our Undertaking; yet, as that will be impossible for me to provide, but from the Benefit of our Labours, I must postpone, till they shall furnish me with Ability, and this is, a sufficient Change of Apparel; it being absolutely necessary that we never appear about the Town, and on the Road, in the same Livery; nay, even the Wig and Hat must vary too; that we may ever be one Creature at home, and another abroad.

We must also, for a few Days, practice the Words of Attack, in a quite contrary
Tone

Tone to our common Way of speaking; and, if possible, to contrive some Mole, or Scar, upon such Part of our Faces, as are left most exposed to View; for I am an Enemy to a total Secretion of this, since the Eye may be most misled by it of any Thing.

As to a safe Place for depositing our Nags in, and the false Marks we must appropriate to them, the former must be diligently sought out, and the latter must depend upon the Cattle themselves when purchased.

In short, *Tom* declaring that the present Meeting would be far too short, to hint at Abundance of Particulars in, that he had yet behind for our Information, it was agreed that he should forthwith quit his Place, on Pretence of the Death of a Friend, who had left him a pretty Estate in the Country; and that, taking a Lodging, remote from his Master's, I should furnish both him and *Jack* with Supplies, till we should enter upon our new Occupation, and then we appointed another Meeting-Place, where we might adjust all further Preliminaries.

C H A P. VI.

Set up for Highwaymen. Attack a Coach. How they come off. Method of living. Tom drawn in by a Whore. Grows extravagant. Commits a Murder. They leave him. Their Case desperate. Sharp relates an unfortunate Love Affair.

ALL being perfected, as had been concluded at the preceding Meeting, it cost me above fifty Pounds to harness out myself and my Companions with several Suits of Clothes each; which, that we might be the better furnished with, for the least Expence, we bought in *Monmouth-street*, and then, for some Time, we consorted with none but the best Company, at the most noted Places of Resort, even some of those we had been before acquainted with; seldom going together, but rather dropping in singly, and as it were gaining our Acquaintance there; till at length we became visibly intimate with each other, as with several other Gentlemen there.

We had first purchased each his Gelding, at the Expence of forty-five Pounds in the Whole; nor travelled a genteeler Set of Creatures upon any Road near *London*. Tom

VOL. I. E having

having hired us a Stable, to and from which we could pass and repass, without any one's intermeddling at all with us. We also bought each of us an Hanger, and two Pair of Pistols; a shorter Pair for each of our Pockets, and a longer to be slung under our Great coats, and to be produced upon the Word of Command to stand.

Thus accoutered, we sallied forth one Afternoon, but at different Times and by several Ways, to the Rendezvous we had pre-appointed, upon *Putney Common*, which we were crossing a Foot Pace, when *Tom*, who was as watchful as a Leveret, pricking up his Ears, cried, Hark! here is some Wheel-Carriage approaching us: Fall back one of you for some Poles Distance; let another of us advance, and the middle Man attack it, said *Tom*. If there are Servants on Horseback before, let the last of us suffer them to pass him; if behind, let the foremost of us prevent their giving Succour to the Company within, whilst the middlemost is rising the Passengers.

Jack, said he, Let me see how you can behave at a Coach door; do you order the Coachman to stop, presenting your Piece at him for Refusal, and then demand the Money of the Company; but guard against receiving Watches, Rings, Snuff-boxes, or
any

any Thing else but Money ; for all these Trifles are deceitful, and may themselves turn Informers against us.

Jack beg'd to be excused from the Post of Honour, till he should have observed *Tom's* Behaviour therein ; which, he said, would be far more instructing to him, than the most accurate Lecture he could read to him ; upon which, leaving me behind, and sending *Sharp* forwards, *Tom* took the Center himself, for beginning the Assault there, where, if he should find himself pressed, upon a whistle, we were both to make up to his Assistance.

It proved, upon entering the Common, to be a Coach and four, with two Servants on Horseback behind, one of whom carried a Carbine in his Hand ; besides, that each of them had Pistols in the Holsters.

Jack eyed their Arms, as he rode up to them ; then judging the Carbine a dangerous Weapon, when trusted in the Hands of a Man at large, intent upon Mischief too, he rode up as near as he could to the Bearer's Left-hand, when closing with him, he judged the Carbine would be of no Use to him. He then, with his Pistol in his Right-hand, clapt to the Fellow's Head, swore he was a dead Man, if he dropt not his Arms instantly.

Jack had so engaged himself in close Quarters with his Man, that the other Servant was deterred from firing, lest he should peradventure miss his Aim, and destroy his Fellow, who neither absolutely resisted *Jack*, or wholly submitted to him. This *Tom* perceiving, and fearing lest *Jack* should be worsted by two to one odds against him, which might prove of far worse Consequence than the Loss of our expected Booty, he quitted the Coach, and rode up to the Help of his Comrade, whilst the Coach bowling forwards, and meeting me, that I might not remain only a tame Spectator of the Combat before me, I called to the Coachman to stop, at the same Time presenting my Pistol to him.

There were two Gentlemen and a Lady in the Coach, the latter of whom screaming out, one of the Gentlemen called to the Coachman to rein in his Horses, and then telling me there was a Lady in the Coach, whom he hoped I would no ways terrify, he assured me, I should be welcome to what they had about them, and hoped I would treat them like Gentlemen.

This I having in my feigned Voice engaged for, the Gentlemen threw each his Purse into my Hat, and the Lady, at the same Time, her Watch and a Diamond Ring,

Ring, which I desired one of the Gentlemen to return to her again, for that I would have nothing to do with them. This generous Behaviour so charmed the Lady, that, calling to me to tarry, as I was turning from the Coach, she threw her Purse also into my Hat, and at the same Time wished me a Good-night, and safe home with it.

A Pistol at this Instant firing, I spurred up to my engaged Companions, expecting no less than that there had been Murder committed of one Side or other; but before I could reach them, the two Servants met me, flying to overtake the Coach, being exceedingly well mounted; and, in Token of their Affection, one of them fired his Pistol just before my Nose, but missed me.

I was turning about to have chastized the insolent Rascal, when, perceiving my Companions upon the full Speed cross the Common, I made after them at my Top Rate; nor stopped either of us, till we had made a Tour of about four Miles; when discharging ourselves of a long narrow Lane, we came amongst some Enclosures, where, hearing no Sound of a Pursuit, we sauntered for a While to cool our Cattle, and had Thoughts of returning for that Night, unless we should meet any Thing in our Way worth stopping for.

Tom began to display *Jack's* Resolution and Conduct, in the most advantageous Colours, setting forth his two Antagonists as very brave and daring Fellows; and *Jack*, in Return, acknowledged his Escape from them to be solely owing to the timely Assistance he afforded him; but regretted not only the Loss of our Booty, he said, for its own Sake, but for that it was ominous to be foiled in our first Attempt.

Tom replied, that general Traders must be sometimes Losers, as well as Gainers; but, turning to me, was amazed, he said, that I should stand neuter in the Affair, and neither fly to their Succour, or detain the Coach till they had disengaged themselves; for in Spite of the Servants, he said, had not the Coach, when the Servants ran, been so much a-head, he would have made a Push for a Contribution.

I told him, it would have been but to little Purpose if he had; for that he would have found the Gentry pennyless. *Tom* said, that Persons of the Rank they seemed to bear, never travelled unprovided; and it would have made them a good Supper at least, after all the Trouble they had taken with the Scoundrels their Lacquies.

Prithee, *Tom*, said I, what can you believe me to have been at, during your Encounter,

counter, if not trying the Strength of their Abilities? Why, Man! I have not only procured you a Supper for To-night, added I, but the Provision of some Weeks, without Labour.

Are you in earnest, *Will*? said he. I assured him I was, and could not imagine, but they must have seen what I was at; but soon found that neither of them had. The Compliments now ran as flush in my Favour, as before they had in *Jack's*; nay, so much more heartily, by how much I was now the best able to pay for them: So that, hearing of my Success, we all jogged much more merrily homewards, than only with our Ride for our Pains; for we met not the least other Thing worth attempting.

Over a Bottle at Night, I gave them an Account of my Proceedings with the Coach; and then pulling out my three Purfes, I poured forth their Contents upon the Table, amounting in the Whole to fifty-one Guineas; besides a Watch and a Ring, which I told them I had redelivered to the Company.

This *Tom* commended me for; but *Jack* declared, that, had it been his Fortune to have taken them, he should have made bold to have moved off with them. *Tom* highly blamed him; but *Jack* said, he had almost

longed to be Master of a Watch, and would certainly have kept it for his own Pocket; nor could he think that any Thing looked genteeler in Company, than a Diamond Ring upon the Finger.

Tom allowed the Utility of such Things, if openly purchased; but for him to be in Possession of what, whoever should see it, might make legal Claim to; and what being sworn to by the true Owner, would put him upon Proof of its Attainment by lawful Means, or, in Default thereof, hang him; was running such a Risk for a Trifle, he said, as no prudent Man would subject himself to.

We were far more provident than most of our Fraternity generally are; for instead of dividing the Spoil, and each Man squandering away his Part, either upon Women, Gaming, or Drinking, we took but two Guineas each, and deposited the Remainder under Lock and Key, as the Foundation of a growing Fund for our future Exigencies.

We took each of us a several Lodging, though we were obliged to pay for the Rent of a private House, in order to the entitling ourselves to a good Stable, which stood in a back Yard, to which there was no Way but through the Dwelling-house; but of this we made no other Use, than as a Repository

of two Modern Adventurers. 81

tory for our Great-Coats, Boots, and riding Accoutrements; so that neither of our Landlords where we lodged, were apprized of our keeping Horses.

We usually made two Turns a Week; or, if not successful to our Wishes, three: For it was a bad Night indeed, wherein we made not ten Pounds; but, upon a moderate Computation, one Week with another, for the first Quarter, we made about sixty Pounds a-Week; and, which was very remarkable, in Persons of our Profession, the higher our Gains amounted, the closer we grew, and more niggardly in our Expences; till *Tom*, falling into Company with a young Woman of the Town, whose Extravagancies would have swallowed up a princely Revenue, he, in a short Time, not only had extracted his whole Dividend out of our Bank, but had greatly dipped into our Quotas too; nor would he rest satisfied with Excursions, twice or thrice in a Week, but was perpetually urging us forth every Night; at which Times, no moderate Gains would content him, till we had watched out, frequently, the whole Night for encreasing them: Nay, as we soon after found, if we, as we frequently did, declined our Attendance so often as he requested us, he would nevertheless go by himself, and make the

most of it; and rather than let any Thing slip his Fingers, through Neglect, or Dread of the Consequence, he was so daring, as to have engaged in some such bold Actions, as had very nearly proved his Overthrow.

This Sort of Management gave *Jack* and me such Disquiet, lest, upon his Apprehension, we should be impeached by him, that we had often consulted together upon the securest Method of quitting his Society, and withdrawing ourselves to some other Part of the Country, both out of his Knowledge and Reach; but we never had the Resolution to execute it, till about two Months after; when, hearing that he had committed a barbarous Murder, and that Search was very warmly making after him, we, without further Deliberation or Ceremony, took our Horses the next Morning, and, with the Cash we were then Masters of, set forwards for the North, for the two or three first Days, most expeditiously; till we were, as we thought, beyond the Smell of *London*; then, slackening our Rate, we rested, now here, now there, as Chance or Fancy led us.

Being now out of Dread, as we apprehended, of a Pursuit, by Means of *Tom's* impeaching of us, in case himself should be surprized, or confined; our Thoughts reverting homewards, we began again, for
Want

Want of other Employment, to turn our Eyes upon our own Conditions, as most desperate.

The Want of Initiation into some Occupation, capable of subsisting us, in our juvenile Days, had left us neither Ability, or Inclination, for looking into any manual Art or Profession, in which we must subject ourselves to a limited Probation and Instruction, before we could commence Proficients for subsisting by it; nor was our joint Stock, at the utmost, more than three hundred Pounds, over and above what *Tom* had pillaged us of; a Sum, far too narrow, we were both sensible, for subsisting us long upon the Road, as Travellers, and Gentlemen: For we had so long been accustomed to the best of living in Publick-houses, that we could by no Means submit to the Indignities, generally offered by Persons of the like Occupation, to such as trouble them merely for their own Conveniency, with an Eye rather to saving, than a liberal Dispersion of their Cash amongst them; our Method having ever been, to have behaved ourselves so, as to have met with a hearty welcome at parting.

These Thoughts drew us into such a Dejection, in a While, as to abate much of the Relish of Life to us; we had employed
many

many Hours of our spare Time, in projecting Means for disposing of ourselves in some beneficial Employment: For, as to our late Profession, now we were fairly out of the Hands of our Preceptor, we had not the least Notion of launching into that Way of Life again, though we should be certain to be the greatest Gainers by it: For ever since we had declined it, our whole Amazement had been occupied, only in conceiving how it should have been possible for us to have survived in it for one half of the Time we had done; so that nothing now was further our Aversion, than all Thoughts of reverting to that again.

Not being able to fix upon any Undertaking, promissory of the least Success; as we were musing over our forlorn Condition one Day, Ah! said *Jack Sharp*, if I had not been born an unhappy Dog, I had not now been to seek for a Subsistence. I replied, that I too might say the same Thing; for had I but been so lucky as to have had a discreet Parent, who had studied my Provision in Life, beyond his own Grandeur, I should as little have been driven to my present Shifts, as he would, had his *Irish* Father-in-law proved an honest Man to him.

Sharp replied, that he meant it not in that Way; but what he spoke of was, a Fortune

Fortune of his own procuring. I told him, it was never too late to try for it, and wondered he should hesitate at putting it to the Experiment, in the present low Ebb of his Finances; but desired him to let me into the Mystery of it.

Will, said he, there never yet has appeared to me, more than one Woman upon Earth, whom I could esteem incomparably beyond her whole Sex. She was the Heiress of a Gentleman in our Neighbourhood; had two hundred Pounds a Year, and about four thousand Pounds in Money, in her own Possession. She was a most intimate Acquaintance of a Kinswoman of mine, who loved me as her own Brother, and for whom I had the most cordial Affection also.

It was with her that I first beheld my Charmer; there was I smitten with her, and to this Kinswoman I first discovered my Regard for the Lady. She praised my Choice, adding such Encomiums upon the Lady's Virtues and Qualifications, as united my Affection to her Person still more ardently; insomuch, that desiring her to stand my Friend, and, by a minute Search, to enquire whether the young Lady could affect me, or would have any the least Aversion to my Addresses; I soon discovered
how

how acceptable I might prove to her, if what had escaped her, *en passant*, might but be depended upon. In short, I attacked her; conquered her feminine Scruples; brought her to an Engagement for Wedlock with me, and we were to have been Man and Wife, so soon as proper Articles could have been adjusted, and executed, for the Settlement of her Fortune, and mine, which was then in my Mother's Hands, as we had agreed upon; but herein may I pronounce myself the unhappy Dog I but now mentioned, that whilst these Things were in Agitation, the Lady was taken with the Small Pox, and in about ten Days after died.

I was extremely grieved for the Loss of her; but had been infinitely more so then, had I known what would after have befallen me; nor since that Time, can I truly say, that I have wholly ceased to lament my Misfortune, in my own Breast, for any one single Day; though you are the first of my Acquaintance that I have ever revealed it to.

C H A P. VII.

*Project to make their Fortunes by Marriage.
Discussed. Agreed to. Beneficial Article.
Procure their best Clothes. Fear Tom's
impeaching them. Tom committed. Re-
cital of Tom's Case from a Pamphlet.*

JACK's Over-night's Misfortune had so absolutely possessed both my Heart, and my Brain, at the Time of my going to Rest, that it produced in me, during the dark Season, a Proposal for *Sharp's* Ear in the Morning, which I could not but judge we might make a good Hand of, if managed with Accuracy and Resolution. Nay, I had revolved it over and over, so long in my own Imagination, as to have entirely vanquished every presenting Difficulty it might be attended with, and to have brought it to the wished for Perfection of an ample and regular Settlement in the World for our whole succeeding Lives Time; and so full was I of my Project, that no ways being able to keep my Bed any longer, I even started at the Peep of Morning; nor would my Impatience, for imparting my Suggestions to my Fellow-Traveller, permit me to suffer his Repose, till himself should be disposed

posed for rising ; but, knocking at his Door, I desired him either to dress, and come down to me, or at least to rise, and let me in to him.

Jack Sharp, whose Perplexities for Futurity, had objected to his Slumber for the former Part of the Night, had not long lost himself in Repose, before my Alarm awakened him, in one of the most unpleasant Moods I had ever known him in ; nor would a few Arguments gain me even Admission to his Bed-side ; for he absolutely refused to leave it : Till at length, upon my repeated Requests he let me in ; but, returning to his Bed again, wondered, he said, how I could be so troublesome, and at so unseasonable an Hour too. Had I, he said, passed the Night under such a Turbulency of Spirits as he had done, I should have judged very hardly of him to have awoken me, just after I was fallen, through Fatigue, under a gentle Oblivion of my Inquietudes.

Dear *Jack*, said I, blame me not for the present Interruption to your Slumbers : I also have had but a disagreeable Night of it, though my Restlessness has rather concluded in a sweet Composure from Distresses, and an Invitation to the blissful Scene, from whence we may both date our future Happiness.

piness. Ha! said *Sharp*, say you so? that will, indeed, be worth attending to.

I told him, my Cogitations had been upon the Wing all Night; nor had they only penetrated into each personal Undertaking in our own Island, but had almost traversed the whole Globe itself, in quest of a Maintenance for us, which I hoped, at last, I had found; or at least, so far, that I would be responsible, nothing less than our own Misconduct would deprive us of Success in it, if we employed our best Faculties in the Attainment of it.

Will, said he, I so perfectly approve every Means you shall propose, whereby Want may be excluded all Intimacy with me, that though I shall rejoice to hear your Proposal, yet, I beforehand assure you of my Readiness to join with you in every honest Step, that carries but the Face of Probability with it.

Do'st know how to make Love well, *Jack*? said I. He presumed he might, he said, having never attempted it but once, and that to Purpose; but why, continued I to tantalize him with such flying Fancies, when the Realities might fall so far short of his Aspirings, as but the more to depress him again? he said.

I replied, that a Thought had seized me the last Night, that as we were both young, and neither of us despicable Fellows, or wanting in a proper Address to the Ladies, we might, under due Management and Regulations, not improbably, both make our Fortunes by Marriage; or, at least, it was but making the Experiment: For that I had ever been an Enemy to Indolence, and had often found it to answer, that whilst a Man was in Pursuit of some one honest Kind, with Alacrity, he would scarce fail, though he missed of his immediate View, to fall upon some other Incident, equally, or it might be more advantageous in the Long-run, than the Prospect he at first set out with. Therefore, I told him, I should esteem myself laudably occupied, in having some reasonable Pursuit in Hand, let what would prove the Issue of it.

Jack, whom I had but just released from his gloomy Ideas, could not forbear starting infinite Odds against us, as to Matters of Estate and Settlement; concluding, that we might easily rid ourselves of all that was left us in the Pursuit of such Amours as were chimerical only; but made vast Doubt of our ever being a Penny the better for them; and then, with what Heart could he prosecute a Love-Suit, he said, with any Lady,

Lady, or even wish for its Perfection, who had his late Mistress ever in his Eye, who as far excelled all that she had left behind her, as the most accomplished Prince in *Europe* did a Slave in the Mines, or Gallies. In short, he said, he took it to be a mad Scheme of mine, that sounded well in Speculation, but what, upon the Experiment, he much feared would leave us worse than found us.

Again, he urged, that having left all our Apparel behind us, we must be new equipped, from Crown to Sole, with several Changes of Habiliments, before we could possibly attempt even a Familiarity in the Ladies Companies, and consequently, much more, before we could pretend to make Conquests: For what could we expect that Ladies of Figure and Fortune (who were the only Game for our Toils) would think of us, if we ever appeared before them in the same Livery; but that we would have exhibited a Change, had we been Masters of it?—I tell thee, *Will*, said he, this Project of thine may the more speedily divest us of our little remaining Property; but, believe me, will scarce introduce us to greater Affluence.

I told him, that all his Ideas were vapourish, and presented him with nothing but
Hydras,

Hydras, and Goblins, dressed up in ghastly Shapes, and forbidding Appearances. If he meant to thrive, he must push Fortune, who was shy of its Favours to the dastardly Undertaker, but dispensed them liberally to the intrepid and audacious Youth; especially when Woman was the Prize contended for: Nay, that the Thing was so apparent, as to have been recorded for a Maxim, that *faint Heart never won fair Lady*: For he that would be esteemed by that Sex a worthy Lover, must act with such Courage, as if he judged himself so, before she would be captivated by him.

Look ye, *Jack*, added I, my Heart is so set upon this Project, that I am resolved either to make, or break myself by it. Act you, as you please; as for Apparel, it is so necessary an Implement in my Profession, as without which, I am too sensible, there is nothing to be done: For which Reason, as what I left behind me in *London* is of the best, and truly worthy of the best Lady's Notice, I am determined therefore to take Passage thither by some Stage-Coach, leaving my Horse at the Inn behind me till my Return; and as there will be but a Trifle to pay for my Lodging, I will pack up my Awls there, and return the next Morning.

Nay,

Nay, *Will*, said *Sharp*, if you are resolved upon your Scheme, I am determined not to desert you in it ; but, first, let us enter into an Engagement, mutually beneficial to either of us, as it may happen. I replied, that for the Sake of his consorting with me, I should be backward in no reasonable Expedient for our mutual Advantage, and desired him to propose it to me.

I am thinking, *Will*, said he, that one of us may possibly succeed in the Attempt you are for engaging us both in ; but then, that both of us shall, is as uncertain, as it is to whose Lot that shall fall. If we are both prosperous, it will be the making of us ; if both unfortunate, our Fate will still be similar. Now, what I would the most studiously guard against is, the Miscarriage of one of us, whose Portion must needs be imbibtered, proportionably, to the other's Advancement above him. What, therefore, I would propose is, that we mutually engage, before we set out upon the Enterprize, that whichever of us shall be singly advanced by it, shall provide for the other, in Proportion to the Advantages himself shall reap from it, till such other shall have feathered his own Nest with a Mate, capable of withdrawing him from the Protection of his former Benefactor.

This,

This, added *Sharp*, I assure myself, will be most salutary to us both, as it will make each a Promoter of other's Enjoyments, for the Sake of Participation ; whereas Envy, so Inherent in the Breast of Men, may otherwise excite one of us to supplant the other, in those Advantages, that will be but partial, not mutually redounding to both.

I could by no Means flatter myself so far, as not to suspect myself, to the Full, as much interested in the above Proposal as *Sharp* ; and therefore, I made not the least Hesitation at embracing it : So that, now nothing more remained, than to take the Journey for our Clothes, and to discharge our Lodgings ; but, as we knew not but *Tom* might have impeached, and described us ; that we might create no Suspicion, either upon the Road, or at our Journey's End, of our being the impeached Persons, by appearing together, we separated, upon leaving our Inn, and each taking a different Rout, arrived, by several Stage-Coaches, in Town, much about the same Time ; where, having bundled up our Baggage, and sent it to the several Inns we were to depart from, we arrived much about the same Time in the Country again, and strait repaired to a Rendezvous we had before nominated.

We had, at our Meeting, each of us, a most lamentable Story for the other's Ear: For the Sessions ending the Day before our Arrival in Town, and the publick Prints abounding with the Names and Characters of the Malefactors who had taken their Trials that Sessions, we found, amongst the Convicts, *Thomas Parnel*, for the Murder of *Joseph Wiseman* upon *Finckley Common*; but as for the Particulars of the Fact, we were left wholly in the Dark, save what Rumour had spread about the Town, just before our first leaving it.

The Catastrophe of poor *Tom*, being uppermost in both our Minds, was the very first Piece of Intelligence we purposed to have given each other upon our Meeting at *Coventry*, that being the City we had appointed for our first rural Interview; but, scarce had I begun upon the unfortunate Event, when I found that *Sharp* was as ready for delivering himself of it to me: So that, instead of either of our proceeding upon it, we both wept heartily for the poor Fellow's Sake, and blessed ourselves, at having so narrowly escaped the same Sentence.

We would then have given any Thing, almost, that the Sessions-Paper had but been published, whilst we had remained in Town,
that

that we might have informed ourselves of the Particulars of the Evidence against him; but though we had not then the Satisfaction, to have gratified our Inclinations from thence, it was not more than about three Weeks after, that we met with a genuine Account of it at *Northampton*, in a Publick-house we put up at there; by which it appeared, that *Tom* having been somewhat backward in his Contributions to his Mistress, she had shut him out from her Apartment, and swore that he should never more be admitted, till he brought her twenty Pounds with him. That so infatuated was he, by this vile Woman, that though he knew her to associate with other Men daily, he could not desist from paying even Adoration to her.

The above Repulse of his Lady, till the Conditions she had enjoined him should be performed, set the poor Fellow upon every Villainy for procuring it; and for that Purpose, he stopt two Gentlemen upon *Finchley-Common*, hoping from them to have obtained the Sum he was rated at; but one of them giving him the Slip, and by the Fleetness of his Horse escaping; that the other, who seemed to be preparing for it, might not disappoint him also, he, without more ado, shot him dead from his Beast, and, dis-

dismounting, fell to risting him ; but not with the Effect he hoped for, no more than thirteen Guineas being found upon him.

This falling so short of the Sum, his rapacious Mistress had prized her next Favours at, *Tom* doubted not, but if he could come up with the escaped Person, he should be able to levy the compleat Assessment, or more, which he even burnt with the Desire of laying at her Feet that very Night ; for which Purpose, he spurred after the Fugitive, to overtake him, intently bent upon stopping his Career, by his still loaded Pistol : For neither the Slaughter just present before him, nor his own Hands, yet reeking in the Blood of the poor innocent Man, could a Whit deterr him, from his savage Purpose of destroying his Companion, if possible, for the Sake of his Cash for his Mistress ; but, by good Fortune, the Gentleman having the Heels of him, *Tom* rather lost, than gained Ground upon him, after pushing his Horse for some Minutes to his top Speed : So that, turning down towards *Hornsey*, *Tom* sheltered himself from Pursuit, in the Woods there, till Evening, and thereby avoided the Hue and Cry that was made after him ; for this Robbery and Murder were committed early, in the Face of the Sun.

No sooner was the Day closed in, than *Tom*, sneaking from his Harbour, stole into Town, put up his Horse, and made a Tender of his dear purchased Earnings to the supercilious Dame, his Employer; but even a single Farthing, beneath the Sum limited, she insisted upon as an Affront to offer her, spurning both the Cash and the Man from her in the Height of Indignation; till *Tom*, in order to pacify her, and convince her of the Lengths he had run for the procuring even of what he had produced, hinted at the Murder to her, and swearing horribly, that he would the following Evening, without fail, even double the Sum he then brought her, she, at Length, so far submitted to his Reasonings, as to permit him to spend the Night with her; wherein he recounted to her all the Circumstances of the Slaughter he had made for her Sake.

The Gentleman, who had been so fortunate as to make his Escape, having taken sufficient Notice of *Tom*, for giving a tolerable Description of his Horse, published, the next Morning, a Reward of an hundred Pounds to any Person who would apprehend, and give him Notice of such a Person, as he therein represented; so that both this, and the Murder, became soon the current Topick of the Morning, and in every

one's Mouth : Nor any sooner was Madam stirring, and had stept down Stairs (for *Tom*, who chose but little to appear in the Day-time, cared not how much of that he spent in his Bed) than her Maid asked her, whether she had heard of the Robbery and Murder upon *Finchley Common* Yesterday?

Madam replied, no; and enquired, Where, and how she heard of it? The Girl replied, that their Landlord, going for a Pennyworth of Purl, had seen it in the Papers that Morning. This made the Mistress all Impatience till she had read it too; so that, sending the Wench on the same Errand, she gave her Orders to bring with her the Paper, at all Events.

She did so; when Madam, having therefrom satiated her Curiosity, and convinced herself, that such an ample Reward was offered for the apprehending of her Paramour, as an hundred Pounds, she returned up to him, having first charged her Maid, not to come into the Room to disturb the Gentleman, till she should call her.

Madam was soon so busy in dressing herself, that she awakened *Tom*, who, in her Absence, had fallen into a sound Sleep; when observing his Lady to be ornamenting herself, more than usually fine for a Morning, he asked her, whether she was

not yet ready for Breakfast? And why she was dressing so gay that Morning? And also, what Time o' the Day it was?

The Lady replied, past ten; and that, finding him so fast asleep, she had ordered Breakfast to be kept back; but, presuming he would tarry out the Day with her, she was dressing, in order to go to Market, for something for their Dinners; so, desiring him to turn about for another Doze, she told him, she would be back with him presently.

Tom, taking all she had offered, as proceeding from stark Love and Kindness to him, did as he was bid, and she presently left him snoring again.

She ordered her Maid, as she went out, by no Means to go up till her Return, for that she should be back again presently; and so she was, indeed, but with such Company, as poor *Tom* little expected to see with her: For she carried up a Constable, and two or three Assistants at her Heels, to whom she shewed the poor, naked, and defenceless Fellow, as the Person described for the Murderer, and for the Discovery of whom, the Reward of an hundred Pounds was offered.

The Constable took Charge of him as his Prisoner, ordering him forthwith to dress him-

himself, and go along with him before a Magistrate; he strictly examined all his Pockets for Arms, or other stolen Goods; but not a single Cross found he there, besides the usual Pocket Implements, save one Pair of short Pocket Pistols, and under his Great-Coat, which hung upon a separate Chair, one Pair of Horse Pistols.

Tom was so confounded at his Apprehension, that he never once offered at a Word in his own Behalf, or any Thing else, but Condemnations of his Lady's Treachery; and, as they were leading him out of the Room, little doubting but that he should be committed to *Newgate*, he humbly implored her to give him a Guinea in his Pocket; for that it would be the most barbarous Thing in Life, to turn him out in such Company, pennyless, after receiving so much from him the last Night: But Madam, smiling in his Face, Can such a Wretch as you, said she, mention Barbarity, who would shoot a poor Gentleman to Death, who had never offended you? No, no, added she, away with him, away with him; such Fellows as he are the Pest of human Society. What! said Tom, will you not grant me the Favour of a Crown Piece? But she replied, not a Farthing. When Tom, bursting into Tears, replied, What greater

greater Curse can a Man be subject to, than the Love of a Harlot, as thou art? Master Constable, added he, this Woman has spent me some hundreds of Pounds, and now, in my Distress, you see, denies me a single Crown Piece; but, you say, there is a hundred Pounds Reward for taking me; how then can I presume that she, who has trafficked with me by hundreds, as the sole Delight of her Soul, should withstand the same Merchandize, when offered her by another Hand?

Well! I shall have this Comfort, continued he, in my Misfortune, that if there is an Hell for my Portion, I can never shift the Scene for more ungenerous Companions, than her, whom I have made my Delight, and darling Treasure: So that, lead me wherever you will, from her cursed Presence that has undone me, and I may still find Comfort.

The Officer then conducting him down Stairs, desired the Lady to follow them, to give Evidence of his Confession to her; and sent one of his Aid to the Gentleman, to whom Notice was to be given of his Apprehension.

C H A P. VIII.

Tom Parnel's Case continued. Makes Confession. Remarks of the Justice of Peace upon Tom's Whore. Her Impudence. Justice commits her. Like to lose the Reward. Her Behaviour. Runs mad. Tom executed. Sense of Highwaymens Oaths. Hire Frank for a Servant. His Character.

THE Account of *Tom Parnel* went on; that so soon as he appeared before the Justice, he told him, he was brought before him, not that it might appear whether Evidence could be produced against him, for Proof of his Guilt, in a Fact which he had been charged with by the Constable; but that he might make his free Confession of that, or any Thing else, that, by affecting his Life, might deliver him from the Sight, Communication, and all further Apprehension of the Delusions, Craft, and pernicious Counsels of that wicked Woman (pointing to his Madam) who, with an unconcerned Brow, stood ready to testify, to the furthest Extent of her Knowledge, if not beyond it, whatever might contribute to the intitling her to the hundred Pounds Reward, for apprehending her avowed Benefactor, and profuse Friend.

Tom, then and there, made the above Confession, and signed it; seeming to exult at the Thoughts of parting soon from a wretched World, wherein he should leave that brutish Woman behind him, to suffer the Miseries, due to the treacherous and abandoned Way of Life she led.

The Magistrate, hearing *Tom* deliver his own Condemnation so seriously, could not believe him well in his Wits, till he had enquired of the Woman herself into the Truth of the Facts he had alledged; but, having received a Confirmation of them from her own Mouth, Woman! said he, if it were in my Power to order it, not one Penny of the promised Reward should ever come to your Share, who deserve the worst of Punishments, preferable to this poor Prisoner, who seems to give himself up to Death, as the Reward of his Villainies, and may, possibly, as much repent of his other Crimes, as that he ever fell into your ensnaring Company; but, as for you, though the Lewdness of your Life is undeniably charged against you; and though you are upbraided with Breach of Faith, Charity, avowed Affection, Gratitude, and Generosity, you stand, in this Audience, as regardless of all Character, and Virtue, as if the Reward you hope to receive for this Piece
of

of Service, was an ample Compensation for lost Honour, Infamy, and the Contempt of your Fellow-Creatures.

Having paused a little, whilst his Clerk was writing *Tom's* Mittimus, have any of you, said his Worship, the Advertisement offering the Reward this wicked Woman gapes after?

Madam, with the most impudent Face upon Earth, produced the Paper which contained it, from her Pocket, saying, here, Mr. Justice, is the Advertisement that intitles me to the Reward, and let me see who dares to forhinder me of it.

His Worship, having perused it once or twice over, Woman! said he, how could you prostitute your Body to a Man, whom you was premeditating to hang the next Day? That, Madam said, was nothing to Anybody; she might act as she pleased with that, she said; what she claimed was, the Reward. Not the Whole, I suppose, said the Magistrate. Yes, she replied, every Farthing of it; and desired to know where the Person was who was to pay it to her.

The Justice replied, that the Reward was to be paid upon Conviction. Well! said she, and what is your Fellow writing there? Is not that his Conviction? His Commitment, he replied, it was; but she must wait

till the Sessions for his Conviction. Not I, replied she. I insist upon my Money here, as the Advertisement says. Why do you commit him, if you have not convicted him? I, wait to the Sessions, indeed! added she, we may be all dead, and rotten by that Time. 'Tis well, replied the Magistrate, if your Way of Life don't bring you to rotting above Ground. Mind you your own Business, said the Lady, and let me prosecute mine. Rotten by that Time! indeed! no, no; I'll rot half a Score such fumbling old Fellows as you, before I go myself, depend upon it.

The Justice, having purposely worked up the Lady to some Act, in Contempt of his Authority, and having now taken her at giving him opprobrious Language, he asked her Name. *Jennet Easy*, she said: Then, Mrs. *Jennet Easy*, said he, I shall commit you, for abusing me in my Office. Clerk, make her *Mittimus*, for giving me foul Language, whilst in the Chair of Justice.

The Lady, upon being ordered into Custody of the Constable, began to huff, and bounce prodigiously. She came not there, she said, upon any Charge against her, but to charge another Person, and she would make his old carrotty Wig pay for it. He was fond of being a *Jack in an Office*; but he

he should smart for his ill Manners to her, she having those at her Command, who would see her righted.

At this Instant, said the Paper, in came the Gentleman who had advertised the Reward; whom she no sooner knew, than she claimed it of him. He replied, it should be paid, upon Conviction, to whomsoever was intitled to it. These, said his Worship, are the Constable, and his Aid: For, as to that Woman, she has no Claim to a single Farthing of it, unless they please.

The Justice then taking upon himself the Trouble of repeating the Woman's Behaviour, not only relative to the Prisoner, but himself too, desired the Gentleman would be cautious to whom he should pay the Reward, and, especially, not to pay it to Mrs. Easy, till he had taken good Advice upon it; desiring them to attend to the Advertisement whilst he should read it to them. Then beginning, *Whereas an horrid Murder was committed, such a Day; and then proceeding to the Description of the Murderer, it went on, in the following Words; Now, whosoever shall seize, and apprehend the Person of such Offender, and immediately send Notice thereof to me, Andrew Wall, at W—d—'s Coffee-house, shall, upon the Conviction of such Offender,*

Offender, receive from me, Andrew Wall, the Sum of One hundred Pounds.

Now, Sir, said his Worship, I would know who seized and apprehended the Person of this Criminal? *Jennet* cried out, that she had done it. Mr. Constable, said Mr. *Wall*, Was the Criminal at Liberty when you first saw him? Or was he in the Custody of any one, and of whom?

Both the Peace Officer and his Aid said, that the Gentleman was in Bed, in the Lady's Chamber, when they went in to him. And might he have made his Escape before you came to him? or was he locked in, or under Confinement? said Mr. *Wall*. They replied, he was under no Restraint at all, till Mr. Constable told him he was his Prisoner, and forced him to rise, and took away his Arms from him. Then, undoubtedly, said Mr. *Wall*, the Constable and his Aid are so far entitled to the Reward; but I find, upon Re-perusal of this Advertisment, that here is another Condition annexed, to intitle the Person to the Reward; that is, *he must not only seize and apprehend, but send me Notice of it.* From whom therefore did the Message arrive to me? demanded he. The Constable declaring he sent it by one of his Aid, it seems to me past Controversy, said Mr. *Wall*, that the Reward, upon Conviction
of

of the Offender, must be paid by me to you, Mr. Constable, according to the Letter of my Engagement.

Mrs. *Easy* no sooner heard this, but, suspecting she should some how be baffled amongst them, and come short of her hundred Pounds, she flew into a Rage, and poured forth such bitter Execrations upon them all, and had still such a Fund behind, as not being able to discharge fast enough, she fell into Convulsions, being overpressed with Fury ; insomuch, that three or four of the stoutest Men present could by no Means restrain her from acting, both desperately with herself, and whoever came within her Reach. She cried out to Mr. *Parnel*, to forgive her ; and springing from the Gripe of those who held her, clasped him round the Neck, even in an Agony of Weeping ; but he, detesting even the Touch of such a deceitful Creature, spurned her from him, as he would the most pestilent Animal ; which Treatment from him, whom she had so injured, inspired her with that Degree of Despair, that it is thought, could she but have seized upon any Instrument of Death, she would have preceeded *Tom* by many Days ; but being deprived of these, and ordered to be tied Hand and Foot, to restrain her from Mischief, her Despair was so violent,

as

110 *The* HISTORY

as even to call for Pity from those who abhorred her Proceedings.

His Worship having signed *Tom's* Mittimus, ordered him directly thereby to *Newgate*; and judging it highly improper to release Mrs. *Easy*, to perpetrate more Mischief in her Passion, than a savage Lion or Bear might, he sent her away to *New Prison*, to be confined till she should recover her Senses; but, after a while, being deemed a Patient, incurable by Confinement only, she was, as the Book said, transmitted to *Bedlam*, that proper Care might be taken for her Recovery; whilst *Tom*, being convicted upon his own Confession, was at the appointed Time hanged.

Having perused the little History through, we could scarce look up at each other all the Evening following, we were so shocked at the tragical End of our old Friend and Companion; but our Indignation ran so high against his Whore, as only to lament, lest the Distraction of her Brain should render her Intellects insensible of her own Miseries; which, were they to be decuple to what they had ever been, we judged but a partial Retribution of her Deservings.

We, however, so soon as the dolorous Fit had somewhat spent itself, consoled ourselves upon this Hope, that we need now

be

of two Modern Adventurers. 111

be no longer under the Dread of an Impeachment from *Tom*; whom, though we could not be induced to imagine tardy, as to our Particular, through Design to mischief us; yet, when Life is at Stake, and no Way left for a Man to save it by, but by substituting some one, or more in his stead, it is hard to say where Friendship may end, by the Beginning of Self-Preservation: For as to the Oath we had each of us taken, rather to perish by Inches, than to design, or compass the Death of the other of us, we made no more Account of that, than of the mutual Leagues of Princes, which are held inviolable, only till it proves to the Interest of one of the contracting Parties to break them.

So that, now looking upon ourselves as freemen, not subject by the Charge of any one, to the Impeachment of our Reputation or Credit; we dreaded not the Exposure of our Persons in the most publick Places of Resort; but we soon became sensible, that one main Article was wanting, both for gaining us that respect we craved from our Inferiors, and ranking us upon a Par with such, as we would wish to esteem us their Equals, and this was, a genteel, and accomplished Servant in Livery, to attend us.

Here

Here we stuck, for a considerable Time, at the Expence it would occasion us; not so much for his Wages, and Livery, as for his Horse, which would be as necessary as himself, and the daily Provision for them both, which would eat so far into our Cash, as, in case we were not speedily successful, would beggar us much sooner than without them; but neither could this Discommodity deter us from so material a Part of our Equipage: For, to see a Man of Figure ride into his Mistress's Yard, and there alighting, saunter about with his Horse in his Hand, or hang him to the first Hook in his Way, till somebody should chance to take him, was so shocking to the Politeness of our Apprehensions, and so opposite to the Character we would assume, as nothing but the downright Incapacity for altering it could excuse. We therefore, whilst we waited some few Days at *Derby*, for Intelligence of the Family, Condition, and Fortune of a young Lady we had followed thither, in a most superb Equipage; meeting casually with a very likely Fellow, who had just been discharged from a topping Family in that Neighbourhood; upon the Recommendation of our Landlord, who had known him for some Time, we received him into our

Service.

Service; nor, indeed, behaved he in the least inferior to the Character our Host had given of him: For, added to that, he could shave, and dress a Wig with the nicest Hand; he was even a Model of Complaisance, for our copying after; nor ever met I with a Fellow who enjoyed a greater Fluency of Speech, or with an happier Diction; insomuch, that neither *Jack* or I durst ever enter into an Argument with him, without dreading to be horribly mauled by him: For that neither of us could manage it with half the Ease and Address that *Frank* could, who ever, in the Conclusion, reduced us to a Subscription to what he advanced, rather than, by an Opposition, to demonstrate our own Ignorance.

Neither *Jack* nor I had been much practiced in Politure, save barely what we had picked up in our several Families: For our first Education having been wholly scholastick, and our Parents leaving us destitute, in very early Years, we had gained but little Opportunity of associating to high Life, till very lately; when we both enjoyed natural Sense enough, to discover our own Deficiency, in the artificial and ceremonial Parts of Conversation, and Behaviour: So that now we, who were to subsist upon our Wits, and good Breeding, were possessed of so valuable

luable a Prize as *Frank*, who was a perfect Proficient in both, we hugged ourselves in the Acquisition, and employed every Occasion that offered, for improving ourselves under his Example : For though we signified not so much to him, for our own Sakes, yet, whenever we would be perfected in any Matter of Address, either to our own Sex, or the other, we had only to start a Subject similar to what we required his Sentiments in ; when *Frank* would run on with the Whole, that could any ways be comprehended under the Head we were upon ; by a ready Adhesion to which in our Practice, we made very respectable Figures in every Conversation we fell into.

C H A P. IX.

Believe Frank well educated. Frank's Account of himself. His first Marriage. Poverty. Wife consents to a second Marriage.

FRANK had served us about two Months ; when one Day, at *Scarborough*, as I was walking in a little Garden behind the House we lodged in, into which a Window of the Parlour we usually sat in, opened ; passing by that Window, I saw *Frank*

Frank sitting in it, with his Back towards me, with *Homer* in his Hand, reading very attentively.

The Fellow had not beheld me, so that I passed on without taking any other Notice of him, than by remarking his Employment; from whence, I suspected him to have had another kind of Education, than generally accompanies his Cloth.

Meeting soon after with *Jack*, I acquainted him with what I had seen, and with my strong Suspicions, that *Frank* was not the Fellow we took him for, but had received his Education in quite another Taste, tho' he had so familiarized himself to Submission, as to have rendered it intirely natural to him.

Having once founded this Notion, we met daily with more and more Occasions for confirming us in this Persuasion; till at length, grown curious for satisfying ourselves in the Particular, I one Day put it to him what Countryman he was, and of what Family, what Occupation his Father was of, and where he had received his Education?

Frank seemed not a little staggered at my Question; but as an Answer could not be denied to it, without subjecting him to my hardest Thoughts of him, he replied, that
he

he was the youngest of five Sons, of a very ancient, and honourable House, in the Bishoprick of *Durham*, who had been resident upon their Patrimony, for little less Time than since the Conquest; but, as for their real Name, he beg'd to be excus'd mentioning it, as it might reflect a Disgrace upon some of his nearest Relatives, who still lived in the highest Esteem and Reputation.

He added, that his Father's Estate being mostly in Settlement, an Itch to Gaming, which he could never overcome, had always kept him so bare of Cash, that he could neither lay by any Thing for his younger Children during his Life-time, nor could he command any Thing to leave them at his Death, save a Sum of three thousand Pounds, which was payable out of his settled Estate to them; who, being nine in Number, upon the Division, could receive but four hundred and odd Pounds each, and no more.

I must not, Sir, added *Frank*, in relating my Story, forget my Follies. I was engaged in Affection, to a young Woman in my Father's Neighbourhood, without other Thing to recommend her, than her Beauty, and personal Merit; nor could I avoid marrying of her, though every Sense inform'd me, I was proceeding to both our Ruins;
nor,

nor, indeed, had many Years, I may say Months, of our wedded Life slipt away, before I found all my prior Suggestions but too amply verified: For that I had obtained a Wife, it was true, and found myself the Father of two fine Children, indeed; but without a single Penny of Money, to maintain either myself or them.

Neither my Wife, or I, had as yet abated aught of the endearing Fondness, we had set out with for each other; but, instead thereof, it had rather augmented daily, being kept alive by the double Produce of our Loves; till being no longer capable of either subsisting ourselves, or them, we could not refrain from our Exclamations at Fate, for suffering such Warmth as we glowed with to each other, to be extinguished for Want only of such Supply of Fuel, as might barely recruit our decaying Natures.

As for my own Family, not a Soul of them would so much as look upon me, for the Indignity I had brought upon them all: So that every Expectation from thence I was excluded from. Our Affairs grew so bad, Day by Day, more than on the preceding, that my Wife, notwithstanding the Care she had upon her, was obliged to go out to Labour; nor would I have been found elsewhere, but from the Leaven of that
innate

innate Pride, which wrought so powerfully in me as to prevent it, from a Conclusion that I had ever drawn, that Work was never designed for Men of Family, but was a perpetual Bar to every Pretence of Gentility. I could admit of a Gentleman's eating ever so meanly, nay even of his starving, but that, no sooner should he turn his Hand to Labour, than he for ever after must disclaim the Gentleman.

Matters being now driven to the utmost Extremity; as my dear Wife and I were bemoaning our desperate Fortune, with each of us one of the little Infants in our Laps, and both weeping over them; and were agreeing, how acceptable a Thing it would be for us, in our Distress, but all to drop together, were it even by starving; so that neither should survive, to bewail the other's Loss, and to repine at being the miserable Object left behind; a Thought started into my Head, whereby I could still supply all our Wants abundantly; but for the Injury I must thereby offer to my dearest Wife; but this had arisen no higher than to a Flight of Fancy, which, at its first Motion, I rejected as impracticable.

How it happened, I know not, added *Frank*; for though I could perceive no great Emotion in my own Breast, upon this Suggestion;

gestion; yet my Wife, observing an unusual Vivacity, as she said, in my Eyes, and Countenance, told me, she was assured I was upon some Cogitation that pleased me, and desired me to unfold it to her.

I would fain have put her off, with Assurances that she was greatly deceived; and that our then Circumstances, whilst they continued so miserable, would prove a perpetual Objection, to the Advancement of any pleasurable Thoughts to my Imagination.

Neither this, nor any Thing else that I could offer, would put a Stop to the Inquisitiveness of my Wife into my then Thoughts: For, that I might endeavour to shuffle her off as I pleased, she said; but most certain she was, that somewhat was more than ordinarily pleasing to me, at the Instant she took Notice of me; and said, she took it extremely unkind of me, not to divulge it to her, that she might, were it but for a Moment, have the Satisfaction of rejoicing with me.

Her Importunities, added *Frank*, prevailed; but here, Sir, continued *Frank* to me, before I dare venture to expose myself to your just Condemnation, I must insist upon your solemn Engagement, never to mention me, either to my Infamy, or Conviction,

viction, for what, if I proceed in my Narrative, I must next discover to you.

The Seriousness of the foregoing Preface, adding tenfold to my Inclination for his Story, he had to relate; I protested, upon my Honour, that nothing he would relate to me, should redound to his Prejudice through my Act; and then, he proceeded to deliver himself, as follows.

Before I was married to my Wife, and even in my Father's Life-time, said he, there lived a Widow near us, of an immense Fortune, besides a Jointure for her Life, of near six thousand Pounds annual Income.

This Lady, I say, added *Frank*, took such Notice of me, and had, at Times, given me so repeated broad Hints, of a more than bare Inclination to my Society, as a Companion, as had I not, by prior Engagement of my Heart, to my Wife that then was, been insensible to, I might have married her, I make no Dispute, and have possessed myself of all her Wealth at once; but so rivetted were my Affections to my Wife, then my Mistress only, that, had she made me the Offer of Empires, to have gained my Esteem, and to have made her my Wife, she had then most certainly failed in her Enterprize; and of this, she soon became

came so sensible, that she left the Country upon it, and settled at about seventy Miles Distance, from me, and her former Habitation.

Now this Lady had, added *Frank*, at the Time I have mentioned, started into my Brain, and, therefore, not directly to satisfy my Wife in the Cause of my Pleasantry, but to bring it about by Degrees; what should you think, *Nanny*, said I, of seeing me live like a Lord in the World? Why, I should think it hard, replied she, if I lived not like a Lady too. Well! but, said I, exclusive of this Consideration, what should you think of my high Life? Why truly, *Franky*, answered she, nothing in Nature could prove more acceptable to me, than your Advancement by any Means, from these Dregs of Misery we now subsist in. Could you bear to see me in high Life, with another Lady, rather than to linger on with you, in our present Wretchedness? said I. Speak, my Dear; what think you of this?

O! *Franky*! said she, thy Good-nature would gladly divert my Mind, and lead me insensibly from all Reflections upon my present Misfortunes; but I could wish, for thy Sake, for which I suffer infinitely more than my own, that there was but the least Reality in what you offer. Nay, my Dear,

said I, my Mind should never be so occupied, in the Enjoyment of my own Elevation, as not to support thee and my Babies from my Affluence, in a Manner not only becoming of my Wife, but adequate to my Affection for you.

Alas! my Dear, replied she, we may please ourselves, with Chimeras of Wealth that will never be our's; but a good Mess of Broth, for ourselves and our Children, would prove of more absolute Utility to us, than all the ideal Riches in the Kingdom.

Nay, Nanny, said I, you now shoot besides the Mark; for I am serious, and if you would be admitted to the Cause of my placid Imaginations, you must punctually respond to my Queries; or else, let the Subject drop.

How could you like to see me, added I, the Husband of an opulent Lady, with whom I might live in all imaginable Grandeur, and have it in my Power to provide genteelly for you, and my Children? Could you, in such Case, consent to a Visit only now and then, by the bye, from me?

My dearest Franky, replied she, in order to act upon the same Supposition with yourself; supposing that any such Thing could possibly be; I would, rather than you should continue thus miserable with me, and for my

my Sake, thankfully acknowledge the Blessing of parting from you, upon so beneficial Terms to yourself, though I were as certain of never being benefited, to the Value of a single Farthing by them. You are all that it is worth my while to live for; therefore, believe me, in your's, (in whatever Shape it may happen) will evermore consist my most substantial Happiness.

I kissed the loving Creature, added *Frank*, and then, informed her of the Fancy that had occupied my Mind, at the Time she took such Notice of me: For, said I, my Dearest, whilst I was reflecting upon our deplorable Circumstances, I was revolving in my Imagination, by what Turn of Destiny, it might be possible, ever to extricate us from our present Difficulties; when, what should present to me, but Mrs. L—g, with whom, you are sensible, by her own Choice, I might enjoyed as great Affluence, as this World could have afforded me. If once, why not still? Nay, if she can still submit to me, as a single Man, (for she, I presume, knows nothing of our Marriage) why may I not, under the pressing Necessity of our Condition, marry her too, and thereby, not only intitle myself to the Elegancies of Life, but be enabled to provide for you, and the Children in an agreeable Affluence too?

The Tears ran trickling down my Wife's Cheeks, for the whole Time I was thus speaking to her, said *Frank*; but no sooner had I finished, than, Mr. —, said she, since Matters are thus driven to Extremity with us, without other apparent Remission, than what you have proposed, you have my Consent to make the best Terms you can for yourself; nor fear I your Mindfulness of myself, and your Children, when that Event shall happen.—But, am I then to lose you? absolutely to lose you? said she; and fell into such an Agony, and Flood of Tears, as is scarce credible.

My Heart, added *Frank*, was so touched at her Condition, that, clasping her in my Arms, I intreated her to mitigate her Grief: For that all which had passed between us, was meer Matter of Talk, to amuse ourselves with; and that I had no further Intent in it.

Mr. —, said she, if so, you have carried the Joke too far. As to your present Way of subsisting, I confess, it grieves me to the Soul, to see no End of it, but with your own End; nor will I stand as the least Fence between you and future Happiness; proceed therefore with Mrs. *L—g*, as soon as may be, that the earliest Conclusion may be put to your Distresses.

There passed much more between my Wife and me upon this Head, added *Frank*, for some succeeding Days, till we both began to mention it, without the least Confusion; so that, having prepared for my Journey, I sat out, after several Embraces on both Sides, for the Widow's.

Here, *Frank*, who, during this Relation, stood leaning against the Side of the Window, spying *Sharp* as he entered the Gate, and, judging him to be making to the ParLOUR, beg'd Leave to defer the Remainder of his Narrative till another Opportunity: For that, should he proceed before Mr. *Sharp*, he should talk no other than Nonsense to him, who had not been present at the Commencement of his Story.

CH A P. X.

Frank arrives near his Widow. His Inn-keeper's Account of her. His good Fortune. Dines with the Widow. Their Conversation.

NOT being able to oppose *Frank's* Reason, for putting off the Remainder of his Account to another Opportunity, I dismissed him, tho' under the most restless Im-

patience for the Sequel of it ; and, upon his Departure, immediately, *Sharp* entered the Room to me.

He was so Brim-full of some Transaction that he had been concerned in, that he fell to repeating it to me directly ; but, indeed, my Head was overburdened with *Frank's* Affairs, for retaining a Tithe of what he said to me.

This *Sharp* perceiving, and that I attended so little to his Discourse, as to give him but few, and those very indirect Replies ; *Will !* said he, what is thy Head at Work upon ? You seem to be wholly absorbed, in Contemplation of some mighty engaging Subject.

I am so, *Jack*, said I ; upon such a Subject, as, had you but absented yourself for one half Hour longer, I had been Master of ; but your unseasonable Return has cut me short by the Middle, and I must give Credit for the rest, till another Opportunity.

Jack's Curiosity being put on the Wing, he beg'd me to explain myself, and make him my Partner in the Mystery : For that few Things, he believed, could affect me, but himself must have some Interest in them.

I then informed him of all that had passed between me and *Frank*, so far as *Frank* had laid himself open to me, with which *Sharp* was so prodigiously affected, that he would not stay another Moment, he said, before he had the whole Scene exposed to him; and seemed to wonder, how I sat so easy, under a partial Disclosure of it.

Nothing had been more demonstrable to him, all along, he said, than that *Frank* had not been born to a State of Servility; and he was sorry to hear he should make such a Scruple of exposing his Name and Pedigree; but he must have a Trial of Skill with him for that, when he had brought his Story to a Conclusion.

Calling then for *Frank*, he told him, that I had just let him into the Conversation that had passed between us that Morning; and that his Narrative might not meet with too tedious an Interruption, he would desire him to go on where he had before left off; for that he was already Master of all that preceded it.

Frank would, with all his Heart, have been excused from this Part of the Task; but Mr. *Sharp* insisting upon the Performance of it, *Frank* told him, he hoped he would not be disobliged at what he had to offer to him, which was, his solemn Engagement,

that nothing proceeding from him, should ever redound to his Prejudice upon that Account; assuring him, that I had already undertaken to the same Purpose.

This *Sharp* having readily done, *Frank* resumed his little History, in the ensuing Manner.

I put up at an Inn near the Widow's Dwelling, where I lay that Night, and tarried for the whole succeeding Day, during which Time, I informed myself from my Host, of most of the Nobility, and Gentry, within some Miles of the Place, and, amongst the rest, of my Widow. I told him, I should remember something of the Name of *L—g*, in my Travels, as a Lady of great Fortune; and asked, whether she had not formerly lived in the County of *Durham*?

My Host replied, that she had been removed from thence above four Years. Is she not married yet, said I? but he answered in the Negative; nor, indeed, would she hold the least Communication with the Men, he said, even in mixed Companies; which Behaviour of her's, had drawn upon her infinite Censures from the neighbouring Gentry, some whereof ascribing it to Pride, as having so ample Possessions, that she held none of them equal to her, or worthy of her Familiarity; others, to the Disappointments
she

she had formerly met with, in the Marriage-State ; nor wanted there others, he said, who insisted, that her Affections having been settled where they could not be gratified, she had so laid it to her Heart, as to abjure the whole Race on that Account. So that, he said, notwithstanding her Opulency, she lived as privately, as many Ladies with three or four hundred a Year, if not more so : For that she seldom stirred abroad, save to her Parish Church, though she kept several wheeled Carriages, and always two Sets of fine Horses in the Stable ; her chief Delight, as it was rumoured, being fine Needle-Work ; for the Performance of which, she kept, it might be, half a Score young Wenches, Artists at that Exercise ; and, as her Table Companions, three or four decayed Widow Ladies : So that her House passed more often by the Title of the *Nunnery*, than any other Name, and herself by the Stile of *Lady Abbess* ; not that she was such a Recluse neither, as to avoid all Society, he said : For that many of the Ladies thereabouts visited her, of which she seemed desirous enough ; but she always excused herself from returning them. However, he added, that the Poor had no Cause to find Fault with her : For, instead of lavishing away her Estate upon High-living, Balls,

and Entertainments, as too many of her Neighbours did, till they had scarce a Penny left upon any Emergency ; they felt the Benefit of her Retiredness, in the Supplies they were daily receiving from her, which shewed her to be no ways covetous, though she bestowed her Riches otherwise than many did : For, over and above a Set of Pensioners that she kept constantly upon her List, some for weekly, some quarterly Payments, she distributed annually some hundreds to casual, and other Poor.

The Fellow seeming, said *Frank*, to delight in perfecting what he had undertaken, I interrupted him not, till he had concluded ; when, being sufficiently pleased with what I had heard, I consulted with myself, how to make my Onset : For that a single Step wrong taken, at the first Outset of an Enterprize, not unfrequently subverts the whole Design.

My first thought, added *Frank*, was to have rode boldly up to her Gate, to have enquired for her, and have sent in my Name by the Servant ; but how, thinks I, if her Servants should have general Orders to deny her to all Mankind, and refuse to concern themselves about me ? Or what if she, who has so long opposed the Admission of my Sex, should also refuse mine, meerly,
from

from the Accustomableness of the Thing, however against her Inclination? And yet, that Sentence having once passed upon me, I am for ever after excluded from all further Pretensions.

I spent a whole Night in adjusting my Ceremonials, added *Frank*, without drawing the least positive Conclusion from thence; till towards the Dawn of Day, as I was recollecting the several Parts of the Widow's Conduct; upon remembering the Particular of her being a constant Attendant at Church, I resolved to begin my Attack there; for, by an accidental exhibiting of my Person there, I doubted not but I should collect from her Behaviour upon the Incident, how agreeable a Visit from me might be to her, at her own House.

This being concluded upon, added *Frank*, my Spirits grew as alert, as if my Point had been already carried. I waited with Impatience till *Sunday* came, when, making myself as clean, and as spruce as possible, (for I had still a Parcel of exceeding good Clothes left, two Suits of which I took with me) I got earlier to the Church than most others of the Congregation; where, meeting with the Sexton, disposing Things for the People's Arrival, I fell into Discourse with him, as a Stranger, of who was their Parson? what
Gentry

Gentry came to their Church? and who belonged to such and such of the best Pews, as I pointed out to him? till at length he had shewn to me Madam L—g's.

My next Consideration was, how to plant myself properly for her View, without creeping so near to her, as to be suspected of doing it on Purpose; and having thus suited myself, I waited the Arrival of the Lady. She not appearing till the Congregation were most of them settled, and the Parson just entered upon his Office, I began to be vastly dejected, at the Thought of her not coming at all that Day, and, for Fear that my Contrivance had failed me; nor could my Devotion there have been very lively, in the Absence of the Object of my Veneration; but, just as these gloomy Ideas were torturing my very Soul with Perplexities, such a Rustle penetrated my Senses, as withdrew my Attention from the Reverie I was in; when, raising myself, as every one else had done, a Servant in superb Livery had just opened the Widow's Pew-door, laid down a little Damask Satchell, which held the Lady's Books of Devotion, and was wheeling to the right about, with the Door in his Hand, that the Lady herself might enter; nor was it many Seconds before she came, elegantly decorated, with

two or three old Ladies following her, and several Damsels in her Train.

Mrs. L—g, and the old Women seated themselves together, whilst the young ones took up with an inferior Apartment, and the Men-Servants below them; and now began my Part of the Interlude: For, no sooner had the Widow performed the accustomed Decencies peculiar to the Place, than, casting her Head round, she caught me with her Eyes, (for I stood ready prepared, for seconding any Movement towards me) and in a Sort of Confusion recollecting me, I could observe her to wait for the Motion of my Eye her Way, that she might honour me with a Courtesy.

She had scarce began to drop to me, when starting, as under an Excess of Surprise, I returned the Compliment in such a Manner, as might be fully expressive, both of the Regard I paid to her, and of the Satisfaction I received at so casual an Interview between us.

It may be rather concluded, than barely imagined, that best Part of our Time, whilst confined to our separate Cells, was, as Occasion offered, employed in ogling, and snatching at each others Glances; but all, undesignedly, as each was to presume
of

of the other ; till now, Sermon being ended, we were each intitled, to the other's Salute.

My Design then was, to have waited upon my Widow the next Day, with my Compliments, that having had the Pleasure to see her at a Church I had accidentally called in-to in my Travels, I had made it my Business to inform myself, whether she was resident in that Country ; that, if so, I might do myself the Honour of paying my humblest Respects to her ; and with this View, I had contented myself to let her move off ; but Madam had not such distant Thoughts in her Head of me : For we quitting the Church by different Doors, as most commodious to our several Situations in it, I had not gone many Steps in the Church-yard, before one of the Lady's Footmen accosted me, with his Lady's Compliments, and that she beg'd the Favour of my Company to dine with her that Day, which, if I pleased to favour her in, she would take me home in her Coach with her.

So fair an Invitation, was by no Means to be diverted : So that, desiring him to shew me to his Lady, I told him, it was my Duty to attend her.

It was but just without the Church-yard that her Coach stood, and there I found her waiting for me ; which having beg'd Pardon

don for, in such Manner as I was best able; first conducting her, and two of the old Ladies into the Coach, I stept in myself, and accompanied them.

These Omens foreboded me all the Success I could have wished for so early in my Suit; and, in our Passage home, she took Care to let the old Ladies know, that I was one of her oldest Acquaintance and Intimates, whom she had not seen for several Years before; and one whom she had ever held in vast Estimation, for my good Sense and Sobriety; Qualifications, she said, for which she had ever held me most remarkable for my Years; and that it was a prodigious Pleasure to her, to have so accidentally met with me, whom she had but little Expectation, from the Distance of our Situations, of ever seeing more; nor doubt I, said *Frank*, but that this Declaration was made to the old Ladies, as a Qualifier of the Rigidity of her usual Behaviour to my Sex, which now, in me, she was so complaisant to.

I could perceive, by the Cover of her Table, which succeeded our Arrival but a few Minutes, what noble House-keeping there was; nor could my being a Stranger, have made any Alteration in it; for there were two Covers of nine Dishes each, besides

sides a very fine Desert ; and her Wines were the richest I had for some Years tasted.

The old Ladies withdrawing, after a few daily commemorative Healths, left us, said *Frank*, to our own Devices ; when, after several Inquiries after my Sisters, with whom she used to be most intimate, she asked me, whether his Lordsh—. Here, *Frank* having shot an Arrow, which he heartily wished in Hand again, blushed up to the Ears like Scarlet ; nor knew he how to recover the false Step by any Thing that he could say to mend it ; but, being taken with a violent Fit of Coughing, the common Help at a Nonplus, at returning to his Speech again, she asked me, said he, whether a young Nobleman, whom she knew in those Parts, lived in his late Father's Seat, and what Family he had about him, to all which Queries I having replied, and pray, Mr. —, said she, may I be permitted, without Offence, to enquire, whether none of the young Ladies in the *County Palatine*, have smitten you yet ? and whether you are a Father, or likely soon to be so ?

Madam, replied I, added *Frank*, it is one of the greatest Misfortunes, attendant on the junior Branches of honourable Houses, that, in Spite of Fate itself, they must needs be Gentlemen ; and especially, where their
For-

Fortunes, neither correspond to their Births, or Educations.

It is beneath the Dignity of their Parents, that these should be placed to Employments, wherein they might advance their Substance; though, at the same Time, they are sensible of their own Inability to make Provision for them, suitable to the Figure they would have them make in the World. It is a Kind of making Brick without Straw, to be forced upon high Life, without Substance to support it; so neither can a young Fellow ever marry, for Want of the one Thing necessary, for rendering himself acceptable, to any Lady he may with Credit make his Addresses to, and to one of an inferior Class he may not approach, for the Disgrace it will bring upon his Family. What Chance, therefore, can a younger Brother, with little or no Fortune stand, for marrying to his Advancement? and unless he does so, he is rendered contemptible.

Surely! added the Widow, said *Frank*, all Ladies are not so hard hearted, nay blinded, to their own Interest, as to esteem Wealth only, before Merit in an Husband; especially, if their own Possessions are such as need require no Addition to make them more happy.

Frank

Frank said, he replied, that very few Ladies, he believed, weighed Merit in their Suitors, especially, if Parents were to be consulted, who usually stood as hard, in bargaining for a Daughter, as a Miser would for his Pennyworth, who more commonly rated his Purchase by the Bulk, than the intrinsic Worth of the Commodity.

Had I ever made the Experiment? said she; to which I replied, said *Frank*, that I never but once had the least Inclination so to do; and what ensued? she asked me, O! Madam, replied I, despairing of Success, I dropt it: And so, said she, somebody wiser than yourself hath snatched her out of your Possession. I told her, no; Fortune had not yet dealt so hardly by me. Where is the Hardship, demanded she, of furnishing another, with what you neglect?

Madam, said I, added *Frank*, though I dare not to say I have Hope; yet some Pleasure redounds, from a Certainty of the Lady's not being another's Property: For, till then, I can delight myself in the Interest she has in me, and though I can only wish and love, it is more grateful still, than were I excluded both, by her surrendering herself to other Arms.

Methink, said she, added *Frank*, I should be glad to know this Lady; but must greatly blame

blame you for not putting the Question to her. *Frank* said, he told her, that, was he to die, he could not, the Inequality was so infinite between them. You could but be denied, she said. I could but die, Madam, said I; and this, as surely, as ever that, should befall me.

Tell not me, said she, of Inequality, and Dying; I would put the Question, let the Consequence prove what it would; for, at worst, it is but uncertain; and no Lady upon Earth would ever think the worse of you, though she should refuse you. Alas! Madam, said I, added *Frank*, it must certainly terminate in my Destruction: As suppose, you yourself was the Lady, what could I have in Expectation, for attempting so far above my Reach, but to be spurned at for my Folly, and with Contempt to be forbid your Presence ever after?

There is no saying, replied she, what one would do, till the Case proves really one's own, and so nothing can be concluded from your Supposal. Then, Madam, added I, said *Frank*, falling upon my Knees before her, O! that you may but hear me propitiously! Your's alone can ever be the Case; you are the Lady I would attempt, and it is you alone for whom I live; then
let

let not those dear Lips pronounce my Overthrow, by a Rejection of my Suit.

The Lady then, said *Frank*, looking extremely serious, I would not affect a Rudeness, said she, to the most contemptible Creature, with whom I could find no other Cause of Quarrel, than for his Affection to me. But, Mr. —, so much Merit at my Feet, imploring what must ever redound to my own Glory, requires a far different Treatment from me; then, let me not behold the Man I have ever esteemed, thus abjectly reduced by me, whilst better Place befits him. Rise! then, Sir, added she, Hope is the Anchor that sustains Mortality; employ it therefore, till Perseverance may chance to crown it with Success.

Some Company from the Wells, waiting at the Door to speak with us, *Frank* was sent to usher them in: So that he was obliged to break off somewhat abruptly; we telling him, we would hear the Conclusion of his Story the next Morning.

C H A P. XI.

Frank drawn in to discover his real Name and Family. His Story continued. Invited again by the Widow. Marries her. Her Behaviour to him. Different Effects of Virtue and Vice. Writes to his first Wife. Her Answer. Frank's Distraction at it. Reflection. Frank's Reply to his Wife's.

N O sooner was the Tea-Equipage removed the next Morning, than *Sharp* and I told *Frank*, that we should expect him in half an Hour, to finish his Story; and accordingly, *Frank* presenting himself before us.

Well, *Frank*, said Mr. *Sharp*, how go we on in this Affair? for I long to know how the Widow came off at last; but now I remember myself, you seemed, at our last Meeting, to be somewhat at a Plunge about his Lordship; for had not that timely Cough of your's both confounded us a little, and assisted you to the lucky Hit of a young Nobleman in your Neighbourhood, I am of Opinion, that his Lordship enquired after, had proved your own Brother, and if so, prithee, ne'er sham it, nor be ashamed of your Kindred or Name, since many who
have

have been high born, have come to low Circumstances, as well as of the low born to Wealth and Titles.

What, indeed, when we look back a little, were any of our Ancestors, but some rich, some poor? These descended from Men of Renown, and those from the Scum of the People? Then tell us, *Frank*, added he, ingeniously, is not his Lordship you was going to speak of, your Brother? For it will be in vain to prevaricate.

Frank found himself too fairly trapt by his own Discourse, to imagine he could shelter himself under a Falsity, without Detection: So that, having nothing else but the Truth for it, he confessed he was. And his Title is —, said *Sharp*. Sir, said *Frank*, I have put a Force upon my Inclination already, to gratify you by the Account I have given of myself; and my Master *Draper* very well knows, that my Name is what I at first objected to the Discovery of. Why, *Frank*, said Mr. *Sharp*, is it possible that thy Transactions can have been executed by a nameless Man? What will be more easy in Life, than upon recounting thy Story in the County, to gain the Name of the Author of it? Now this you will put me upon doing, whenever I travel that Way, which may be avoided,
by

by a free Confession at once, and with less Danger too.

Frank, at length, perceiving there would be no satisfying us without it, replied, that his Name was *B—f—ne*. I am content, said Mr. *Sharp*, and now go on with your Story.

We had but little more Discourse at that Time, said *Frank*, the Tea-Table being brought, and the Ladies returning presently after it: So that no sooner was that over, than it growing darkish, I was taking my Leave of the Ladies; when the Widow telling me, I had near two Miles Walk to my Inn, and that the Foot-Way was somewhat intricate, ordered her Coach to the Door to convey me thither. I would much rather have been excused from this Compliment, but, for Fear of disobliging her, having but very little then left of the Produce of a Suit of Clothes that I sold, to furnish me out for my Journey; but, however, I accepted it, and gave the Fellow Half a Crown for his Pains; but just as I was taking Leave, the Widow accompanying me through the Hall, asked me, when I should leave that Country? To which I replied, that, Madam, is alone in your Power to command. Well! said she, if it be so, as you may probably be some Days here,

here, and my House may be as agreeable, at least, as an Inn for you to dine at, I shall expect that you ride over to Dinner with me again To-morrow.

I had only to thank her, and comply; but our Affairs were, as I afterwards found, in such Forwardness, that she scrupled not in the Evening, upon my rising to depart, to assure me, that she could order a spare Bed for me, and that there was Room enough in her Stables for my Horse: So that, in short, I never quitted the Widow's House again, till I had made a Bride of her.

Had it not been for poor *Nanny* at home, no Man in the World might have enjoyed a greater Share of Happiness, than I might with my new Spouse, who, for her Sense, and Sweetness of Disposition, was scarce to be matched in the Kingdom.

She, knowing my Circumstances, of her own Accord, presented me with a very large Sum, for Clothes, and other Necessaries; of which I was obliged to confine myself to the narrower Pattern, that I might the better supply my dearest *Nanny*: For I know not how it is, but there is something so attracting in Virtue, and those Ways and Methods (though ever so fraught with Misfortunes) that a Man can reconcile to himself, and his own Conscience, as is not to be

be found under the Practice of Vice, though ever so prosperous, and successful: So that, though my new Wife, for Age, surpassed not *Nanny* by full two Years, and would have passed with the Generality of the Male World for much the finer Lady; yet I cannot say, notwithstanding this, and that the princely Advancement of my Condition, from the Depth of Wretchedness, to the Summit of Pomp and Elegance, was wholly owing to her, that I ever associated with her, either at Bed or Board, but under an involuntary Flatness of Spirit, that was displeasing to me; whereas my Fancy never strayed to my real Wife; but my very Soul was overcharged with Delight, and Transport, at the bare Recollection of her.

I contrived, by a Waggon passing by my Wife's Door, added *Frank*, to send her some hundreds of my new Wife's Donation to me; and, with them, I sent the following Letter, having now the Draught of it in my Pocket-Book, which I will read to you.

Mr. FRANCIS B——S——NE,

To Mrs. ANN B——S——NE.

My dearest Angel,

NEVER could I have discovered to what a Degree I love thee, had not our Necessities enjoined us this infelicitous Separation, as I doubt not but you esteem it, equally with myself; and but that you are apprized of, and was consenting to the Views I sat out with, how durst I to declare to my only Life, what both my Heart is so confounded at dictating, and my Hand trembles at penning down to you; that I, your once beloved *Franky*, was last Week married to Mrs. *L—g*, and am become, unconditionally, Master of above Forty thousand Pounds in ready Cash, and Securities, thereby; besides the annual Income of her Jointure, of upwards of Six thousand Pounds a Year.

My ever dear *Nanny* may imagine, from the rumbling Sound these Sums make, in the Ear of the Object immersed in Penury, that no less than the supremest Happiness can be attendant on their Possessor; but, dearest Girl, assure thyself, that nothing is more remote from my Imagination; and
that,

that, was I still at my Option, to desert the Grandeur I am encircled with, and to settle myself again in thy perpetual Embraces, with barely one hundred Pounds a Year, to defend us from the Perplexities of Beggary, not all the Principalities on Earth should withdraw me from that engaging Asylum, where every Endearment I could possibly express to thy Person, would, as no Fondness here possibly can, be in Character.

I have herewith, by the Waggoner who passes your Door, transmitted to you Two hundred Pounds, Part of a Present made me before our Marriage, by Mrs. L—g; for you must excuse me from calling her either Wife, or by my own Name; these only can my beloved Nanny appropriate to her own self; but having, as I said, sent you this Money, I must desire you to give out in your Neighbourhood, that I am gone abroad, and that you are going, with the Children, to reside with an Aunt in the North, till my Return. This will stop all Inquisitiveness about what is become of me, not only in my own Family, but elsewhere; and then, I must entreat you, with the utmost Expedition, and Privacy, to bring the Children to L—d—y, about six Miles from me, and there to fix yourself as a Widow Gentlewoman of no mean Fortune; as I

would have you by all Means appear to be, in a genteel House, with a Man-servant, and one or two Maids: For the Expence of which, I shall take Care, amply to supply you.

Let me hear from my dearest Wife, in Return to this, by a Line directed to Mr. *Thomas Wheat*, at the Post-house at *Y-o-e-r*, to be left till called for; but don't remove till I answer your's, as, probably, I may have somewhat more to say first.

O! *Nanny*! how happy should I be, could I inclose myself herein; that with this, I might be received to thy folded Arms! But Fate forbids.

Salute my dearest Children in my Stead; nor conceive, that though I may have surrendered my Person to another, my Heart can ever be biassed to quit its Lodgment within thy Bosom, whilst Life and Being remain to thy

Most Loving,

and Affectionate Husband,

F. B——S——NE

And this, Gentlemen, said he, holding another Paper in his Hand, is the Answer I received from her.

Mrs.

Mrs. ANN B——S——NE,

To Mr. THOMAS WHEAT.

Most beloved FRANKY,

NEVER exulted the Heart of thy poor Nanny more affectionately, than at Sight of thy dear Name subscribed to those few Lines I received from you Yesterday; but, O! my Happiness was too acute to be lasting: For what did I discover upon the Perusal, but that my sole Delight had surrendered himself to a strange Bed, and to impure Embraces.

O! that my Eyes were Rivers of Water, that they might never cease flowing for my Misfortune! Pardon me, my Love, I must confess, my Dear, to the so great Disquiet of my Soul, as I can never forgive myself for, that, as you say, I was apprized of, and did consent to this Enormity; but solely for thy Sake, my *Franky*, not my own, who could far more pleasurably have starved by Inches, enjoying thee, till Strength and Nature failing, I had dropt into Oblivion, and been no more; than I can now subsist a Spectator of another's Enjoyment of thee.

Cursed Stupidity! not to have thought of this before; but, fond to gratify my

Franky's Wishes, I thought, poor Soul! I could have lived happily in your Delight; and that possessing thee in Affection, would have, in good Measure, compensated for our Separation; but, Fool that I was! it cannot, cannot be, and from thy parting from me, not my prior Wants, must thy *Nanny* date her Miseries.

Thy Money, *Franky*, though a Sum I had little Expectation ever to have been my own, felt only Dirt unto my Touch; nor elevated it me more, than so much Clay; however, I shall dispose it to our Sustenance, and to convey me, and my innocent Babies, as near as may be to my Husband; but how I shall apply myself to purchase Finery, whose Choice must rather tend to the sable Weeds of Widowhood, let my *Franky* guess.

Alas! my Joys are past; nor shall I want them long, let me buy what I will; but as I have ever made it my best Study hitherto, to accommodate my Actions to my *Franky's* Views, so ever shall I please myself in my Capacity of existing, till Death, thy

Most Obedient,

and Faithful Wife,

ANN B-----S-----NE.

I had waited the Arrival of the Post, on the Day that I had room to expect the above, and received it directly from the Bag, said *Frank*; when my Impatience for its Contents, would have urged me to the opening it at the Post-house, but that I feared myself incapable of perusing it with dry Eyes, they being just set for overflowing, upon the bare Sight of the Superscription: So that paying for my Letter, and an half Pint of Wine I had called for, I took Horse, with Intent to indulge over it in my Way home, through some of the By-ways I had to ride, wherein I had but little Dread of Interruption from Passengers.

If ever I had before thought myself overwhelmed by Affliction, at the horrid Spectacles of my Wife and Children, weeping for Food around me, whilst I accompanied them in their Tears, for my Incapacity to relieve them; what had I now to judge, from the Contents of my Wife's Letter, whereby it appeared to me, how amiable her Distresses had presented themselves to her, in Comparison with my Method of relieving them.

In short, the Horror wherewith she sustained our Separation, almost distracted me in the Reflection; nay, to such Desperation did it drive me, that I had once fixed my

Resolution for making away with myself, in the gloomy Lanes I was riding through, after first having destroyed the Letter. Nay, I descended from my Horse for that Purpose, drew my Hanger, and had certainly dispatched myself, had not a Rustling in the Hedge, close by my Ear, at the very Instant of Execution, prevented me: For turning my Head for the Cause, (which was a Spaniel beating for his Game) I spied his Master, with his Gun in his Hand, but very few Paces behind him.

The very Act, said *Frank*, that a Man dares to commit in Presence of the all seeing Eye, he is ashamed of being seen at, by one of his Fellow-creatures; whereas this, can neither restrain, nor punish him; that can distress him for it, for ever. Must not this Principle therefore, be founded upon our own Eye, that dreads to behold the Object of our own Confusion, and not upon our Visibility to the Object? It must; and from hence, proceed the Rapes, Robberies, Murders, and most other Enormities in Life; because Men credit not their own declared Principles, which they will argue and reason from with the most zealous Warmth, nay even die in the Maintenance of, equally with the Eye, than which, few Things are more fallible, or deceptive.

But,

But, to proceed, Gentlemen, said *Frank*, where I left off. Upon Sight of this Man, my whole murderous Resolution vanishing, I sheathing my Dagger, mounted my Horse, and rode home, more appeased in my Mind than I could have imagined, after the Tumult I had found stirring there.

I could not, however, so entirely shake off all Lowness of my Spirits, as to conceal it wholly from my new Lady, who taxed me with some private Uneasiness, which she intreated me to divulge to her, and if it was for any stale Demands I might have upon me, she desired me not to be sparing of her Cash, but at all Events, to make myself easy: For that no Sum I could dispose of, for the Purchase of my Felicity, but she would join Hand and Heart with me, in parting from.

One would have thought, added *Frank*, that so much Gentleness, could not but have bound me to her, by the strongest Ties of Affection; but, instead of these, though both my Interest, and Safety, demanded all the Complacence that I could any ways force from myself; yet, I now hated her Company, and bedding with her, became abhorrent to me.

I answered, however, my Wife's Letter, from the Copy that I shall now read to you.

Mr. FRANCIS B——S——NE,

To Mrs. ANN B——S——NE.

My dear NANNY,

NO Art can divine the Anguish I laboured under, at the Time of reading your's, and have ever since sustained, for the Displeasure my Proceedings have afforded you; but lay not the whole Blame of our Conduct upon me, who am already sufficiently burdened, from not only my forced Absence from thee, but my loathed Union with one, who I now detest infinitely more, if possible, than I love you.

Tax me not with the Whole of an Act we both agreed to, and that in our most perplexing Extremities, as an only Expedient for preserving those Lives, that must otherwise have been forfeited to our Penu-ry, but for the hateful Method I took to prolong them.

I desire you will shake off that Melancholy that so furiously assaults you; and comply with my Request, by your Arrival, as soon as possible, at *L—d—y*. I would have you to go by the Name of *Smith*, and the Moment you are fixed there, and have Things suitable about you, send me a Line

as before ; but let not Dejection gain the Dominion over you, till you see me there, who have still further Thoughts in my Head, whereby we may be still rendered in future happy. I shall only add, that I must remain the most miserable of Mortals, till I receive from you the only Draught of Composure, in the Power of all Nature to administer, to your

Your most Affectionate,

Loving Husband,

F. B—S—NE.

C H A P. XII.

Frank's Wife to him. Frank's Case at Sight of his Wife. Reflection. Death of his Wife. Detests his second Wife. Is discovered to be married. His Lady's Behaviour to him. He leaves her. Determines upon Service. His Success therein.

IT was not without Reluctance, that we were again forced to quit our Hold of Frank, before his History was concluded ; but, being sent for down to Dinner, as we were in a House full of other Boarders, without being

being guilty of a Rudeness, we could no ways submit to require their waiting a Moment for us ; but we were so uneasy for the Sequel of his Adventures, that no sooner had *Frank* dined, than we sent for him up again to conclude them.

It was near a Month, said *Frank*, before I heard any Thing further from my Wife, during which Time I rode out almost every Morning, but never took a Servant with me ; pretending to my new Wife, that it was what I ever detested, unless I was upon a Visit of Ceremony : For that, hating to create the Pain of another Person, I always imagined, when I sauntered along now here, now there, as my Horse for the most Part led me, that the Fellow behind wished me hanged, for making such a Fool of him, to accompany me on such idle Jaunts ; when he could be imploying himself more usefully elsewhere.

So that, having brought my Wife to acquiesce to my riding alone, most of my Morning Tours tended to the Post-house ; and here, at length, I found what I had so earnestly sought for ; the Original of which I will now read to you.

Mrs. ANN B——S——NE,

To Mr. THOMAS WHEAT.

My Dear,

MEEPLY, in Obedience to your Orders, I am now at *L—d—y*, at the House of Mrs. *W—t—rs*, a Widow Lady near the Church, not having yet been able to procure an House for myself, according to your Directions.

I am heartily sorry my last should give Offence ; but from *the Fulness of the Heart the Mouth speaketh*. I cannot say that my Journey hither has been so agreeable to me, as every Step towards my dearest Husband, was heretofore, to me.

I shall ever be glad to see you. I can no more for weeping ; but that, till Death, I shall not cease to be

Your most Faithful,

and Obedient Wife,

ANN B——S——NE.

My next Morning's Tour, you may be sure, Gentlemen, said *Frank*, was to *L--d-y*, where the tenderest Scene was realized between

tween me and my Wife, that I ever either bore a Part in, or read of; nor could I forbear, after we had a little recovered from our Lamentations, and were become conversible, to press my dearest *Nanny* for some Endearments, which nothing but my constrained Absence from her at Night could then render seasonable; but she, dear Soul, bursting into Tears, implored me to urge her no more, to what was diametrically opposite to her Conscience. She had resigned herself, she said, to a widowed State, and beg'd me not, from thenceforth, to esteem her other than my Friend, under the nominal Title of my Wife, and the Mother of my dear Children; but that, tho' she admitted me not to every Familiarity of an Husband, yet such Friends she hoped we should be, whose Souls and Affections were inseparable. She hoped, I would soon be sensible of the Justice of her Scruples: For that I, having wholly ingrossed her Faith and Affection, she could consent, as she legally might, to be entirely my Friend, and Admirer, even to the depositing her being at my Disposol; but never could consent to become a Partner with any other Woman, as a Wife to me.

I must confess, I was never in my Life so shocked, as at this serious Rebuff of a
Wife,

Wife, whom I even more than ever adored for it; but hoping that Time would render the Difficulty surmountable, I submitted to her Pleasure; embracing my dear Babies, and adjusting some Preliminaries, previous to her entering upon Housekeeping, I presented her with fifty Pounds; and after the Commixture of our very Beings, in the Tenderneſs of a parting Salute, I left her, and returned home.

I believe, the Caſe is but too common, for every Man to eſtimate thoſe Evils that befall himſelf, at an higher Rate than thoſe of other Men. This is, indeed, in ſome Meaſure juſtifiable; becauſe the Burden of his own lies heavy upon him perſonally, and the other are but conceived at a Diſtance; whereby theſe, can but at worſt be tranſitory, his own, permanent: But Men are alſo apt to conclude, even of the Evils which affect themſelves only, that the preſent are ever the weightieſt; and the Reaſon is the ſame ſtill, becauſe what are paſt ſubſiſt only in Speculation, the preſent, overbear, and torment us.

This was my Caſe, added *Frank*, at the Time I am now ſpeaking of: For though my Wife and I had both conjectured, that no Circumſtances in Life would be more deplorable, than thoſe which my ſecond Marriage

riage relieved us from ; yet, now the Fear of them was blown over, the very Remembrance perished ; nor were we capable of drawing a Comparison from them, in Alleviation of the present ; but these, must be esteemed the most excruciating, that human Nature was able to sustain ; nay, even reverting to our former Sufferings, would, as we then thought, have been deemed a Blessing to us ; nor could we account it less than a Curse, to continue in our present Affluence, under the Condition of our then Separation, which blunted the Edge of every Joy we might otherwise have imbibed, from a Possession of all the Wealth we could well desire.

This, added *Frank*, was the forlorn State that my dear *Nanny* and I lived in ; all Interchange, as between Husband and Wife, being wholly broke off between us ; nor was I ever after esteemed by her, as other than a Visiter to her, whom she loved, and whose Society and Friendship she coveted ; but would never indulge with the least further Intimacy.

In short, Gentlemen, added *Frank*, my Wife laid our Disunion so much to Heart, that the Grief she sustained on that Account, threw her into a Consumption, which in about fourteen Months carried her off. This
was

was a sorer Trial to me, than ever I had yet felt; but I had made the best Use of her tedious Illness that I could, by pouring in some Thousands into her Possession, and then, engaging her to make her Will as a Widow, and to leave Mrs. *W—t—rs* Executrix, with a small Legacy, and Trustee for the Benefit of her Children.

It was the hardest Card I had then to play, that ever had before presented to me: For though my very Soul was subject to the acutest Anguish, for the Loss of my dearest Wife; and though I now and then stole a private Moment, wherein I lavished out the Overflowing of a tormented Mind, in wailing for her Sake; yet, whenever I was before my new Wife, I was obliged to a clean contrary Behaviour, favouring only of Jocularity and Pleasantry; till by being for some Months confined to these Contrarieties in my Deportment, my Life grew so burdensome to me, that I was scarce able to support myself under them.

My Abhorrence of my second Marriage, increased upon me daily, as I more and more lamented my first Wife; nor could I look upon the latter in other Light, than as the Murderer of my beloved *Nanny*; but still, she demeaning herself towards me with most singular Duty, Regard, and Affection,

com-

common Gratitude restrained me, from the least outward Demonstration of my Aversion to her.

This Way of Life, however, lasted not long: For my *Nanny* had not been dead more than eight Months, before my Wife, in my Absence one Day, hired into her Service an House-Maid, who had lived with my Father, and to whom, you may imagine, that I myself could be noways a Stranger. Now, this Wench, tho' I had but little Occasion to converse with her, had so often seen me, *en passant*, as to be perfectly convinced I was her young Master, who had married *Nanny K—f—n*, and was said to be gone abroad.

No sooner was she, therefore, a little familiar with her Fellow-servants, than my Story was entrusted to a Confident; who, proud of obliging a third with it, and she, a fourth, it soon crept round my Family, with this Circumstance, that my first Wife was still alive; but removed from her late Habitation, much about the Time of my Marriage with their Lady.

The Story having now stolen in amongst my Wife's old Gentlewomen, they whispered it over amongst themselves, for some Days; till it grew so ripe, they could no longer contain it, without Vent, or Splitting;

ting; so that, making their Election for the former, two of them together, accosted my Wife, with their Sorrow for what they had heard; but that it being inconsistent with their Duty to her, to secret it from her Knowledge; in order that she might search out the Truth of it, and, if true, secure herself; if otherwise, punish the Reporter. They added, that *Jenny* had reported, that she had formerly lived with her Master's Father, and also knew her Master perfectly well; but wondered to find him her Lady's Husband, he having been several Years married to a Farmer's Daughter in their Parish, whom she very well knew, and had Children by him. That, about two Years before, his Wife giving out that he was gone abroad, removed with her Children, but no one knew whitherto she went.

A Pistol-shot, discharged into my Wife's Brain, could not more effectually have put her Senses to the Rout, than this Narrative of the old Ladies: For, surcharged with Amazement, she only gave a Shriek, and then down she fell into a Swoon directly; but this feminine Disorder, being soon recovered from, she forthwith sent for *Jenny*, and put her under Examination, for Discovery of the Truth of her Relation; vow-
ing,

ing, that if she had any ways defamed her Master, she would send her to the House of Correction.

The Wench, wanted but little prompting, in a Fact she was perfectly Mistress of; so that, she assured her Lady, she would only speak to her own Knowledge, and, indeed, was sorry she had mentioned any such Thing, since it had given so much Offence.

No, no, Child, said her Lady; provided your Tale be true, you have obliged me by it; but, if not, take Care of yourself; for I shall think no Suffering, in such Case too severe for you: Whereupon, my Wife and the two old Ladies seating themselves, as Judges of the Facts to be delivered, *Jenny* began her Story, of how she first came to the Knowledge of me, and *Nanny*; the Discourse of our Marriage; our living together; my having two Children by *Nanny*, whom I always acknowledged as my Wife; the Circumstances it was reported we were in; my sudden Disappearance; my Wife's giving out that I was gone to settle abroad, and her own Departure soon after, with the Children; and, as a farther Confirmation of all that had preceeded, my Relations casting me off, as having brought a Disgrace upon my Family, by marrying to so mean

a Person. All this, she said, was most notoriously known, not only in my own Parish, but all about the Country.

She was then asked, Whether my Wife was not dead? To which she replied, Not to her Knowledge; and then, Whether she was living at the Time of my last Marriage? which was declared to her; to which she replied, That after she left my Father's Family, she next lived with Squire S—n—g—t—n, whose Service she left, she well remembered, in the very Week that it was first reported, that my Wife and her Children had left the Parish; that, being very well acquainted with her, as she was carrying her Bundle from her Place, and passing by my Door, she saw it shut up, which was upon the twenty-third of *March*, two Years before, she said, of which she was positive; and that my Wife was living the Beginning of that Week, she could assert. Now my last Marriage happening in the same Year, and above two Months before the Day spoken to, the Ladies all concluded, that I must have had two Wives living at the same Time; for which, one of the old Ladies said, I might be hanged; when my good Friend, the other replied, and ought so to be too; but my Wife was not yet so hard-hearted, though it is not to be conceived,

ceived, that her Cogitations were most favourable to me.

I had been taking my Morning Ride, whilst this Court-martial had been held upon me : For that was the chief Time, wherein I could indulge my Sorrows, without Interruption ; but, upon my Return, I beheld a new Face throughout the whole Family ; each one looked at me, as if one of us had stolen something ; however, I regarded it not much, but, as usual, having left my Boots below, I retired to my Room to dress myself for Dinner.

Long had I not been housed there, before my Wife, who had received Notice of my Return, entering upon me ; so, Mr. B—f—ne, I presume, you have had a fine Ride To-day, said she ? I replied, a very good one ; but somewhat airy. Have you been to visit your Wife To-day, said she, and your Children ? What means my Love ? said I, do I not see you now ? Ay, ay, said she ; but it is your Nanny I speak of.

Base as I knew myself, I could not so far put on the Villain, as to deny the Knowledge of such a Person ; but, as far as without Detection I might go, I replied, that my Nanny, she spoke of, was dead, and had long been so. Why ? said I, did not you know her ? She was Farmer K—t—n's Daugh-

Daughter. Why? we were married, added I, before you left our Neighbourhood, or very soon after; and were Man and Wife too, replied she, after we were married, or I am much mistaken. So you must be, then said I, for you cannot imagine I should marry you whilst she was alive. Time must clear up that, said she, and shall too: For though I condescended to take you from the Dunghill; it was not that I might have the Honour to be your Whore, I can assure you; and thereupon she left me, without staying for my Reply.

I had Business enough in my Head now for any one Man breathing, to invent how I should persuade her, that *Nanny* was dead before I married with her; which if I could but once do, I valued little her Anger, since I should be sure to live in Plenty, all my Life afterwards: So that, seeming to take little Notice of what had passed, I answered the Call to Dinner, where I expected to have met her again, and either there, or in Bed at Night, to have wrought her to good Humour, and Credence; but, after tarrying till Dinner was almost cold, and upon her Refusal to come down when I sent for her, I perceived, I must dine with two only of my old Women, the Remainder associating with my Wife above Stairs.

I shewed no Manner of Token, however, of my Vexation ; though it almost exceeded my Skill to conceal it ; but I pleased myself, after Supper, that Bed-Time would soon come, when a more prevalent Occasion would offer for Peace-making, than had hitherto been granted me, and I should have her, detached from her old Harpies, who, I doubted not, were Dispensers of Rebellion to her ; but when I went into my Chamber, and had ordered my Maid to acquaint her Lady of my Readiness for Bed ; she replied, that her Lady had ordered the blue Room to be prepared for her, some Time before, and that she was already in Bed, and had locked herself in.

This sounded like a plain Declaration of War ; but yet, I refrained myself from all Expressions of Passion at it. I went to Bed, slept but so, so, and took my accustomed Ride in the Morning, with Resolution, that, if she chose to avoid my Company, I would seem to be perfectly easy about it, as the most probable Means of reducing the Haughtiness of her Stomach : So that I never ask'd after her in the Family all that Day, or the next ; but, on the fourth Morning, as I was taking Horse for my Ride, having not seen *Joseph*, who had lived with my Wife the longest of any of her Servants, as I could remember

remember for a Day or two past, I asked the Groom what was become of *Joseph*: For that I wanted a Pair of Spurs he had Orders to lay by for me.

The Fellow replied, that *Joseph* had been out these two Days, upon a Message for his Lady.

Prithee, whitherto is he gone, said I, that he makes such a Stay of it? He told him, he said, that he was going into the West, somewhere, to *Hilton*, or some such Name.

I had heard enough; so that, mounting my Horse, I rode off; nor ever saw I my Wife, or any of her Family since: For, finding she was determined to make all the Discovery she could of my Proceedings, and being but too sensible that my Conviction must of Course succeed to the Return of *Joseph*; for that not a Child in the Town, but could ascertain my Marriage to him, and the Parish-Register fix it to a Day certain; I resolved to move off the Premises, and never more to return to her.

What grieved me the most of any Thing was, that I had not made up a Parcel of Money to have taken off with me; but it was too late to repine at that: For though I might have had what Cash I pleased upon a Word speaking, whilst my Wife was in good Humour; yet I, intrusting her with

the Custody of it, could not so well promise myself that, since the Rupture between us; nor would I give her the Pleasure of denying me: So that, riding on for all that Day, and Part of some others that succeeded it, I found myself, at length, in the City of *Norwich*, when I judged myself past all Hue and Cry.

Having now no other Means to support myself, (for I had not above three Pounds in my Pocket when I went off) I resolved upon going to Service: So that, first selling my Horse, to prevent the Expence of his keeping, and to answer the Charge of my own, I got into low Company, associating myself with Servants, to reduce myself, by Degrees, to their Ways of Life; from one of these it was that I purchased a Cast-Livery, in which I soon after clothed myself, sold my own Clothes, and began to seek out for a Place.

My only Difficulty was, a Character, which I knew not how to obtain; till after some Intimacy with a Coachman of a good Family, he told me, that his Master's Man was about leaving him, and wished me to try for his Place. I then told him, how glad I should be of residing in the same House with him; but as few Gentlemen would take a Servant without proper

per Recommendation, I was at a Loss how to procure any such Testimonials, as might be satisfactory to his Master. Can you shave, and curl a Wig? said he. I answered in the affirmative, (for these meer Necessity, had heretofore put me upon, and I had ever since retained) then, added he, there is nothing of Art in my Master's Service, but what any Man with his Wits about him, and his Limbs at Liberty may perform; and that you may not suffer for Want of a Character, as I believe you a worthy Fellow, I'll tell my Master you are my Countryman, and pass my Word for your Honesty and Sobriety, which will answer to the best of written Characters: For I have lived in my Master's Family these twenty Years.

In short, I offered myself as a Friend of Sam's, and was received; and now I fell to my new Employment, at the Rate of eight Pounds a-Year, besides Vails, which, I believe, Gentlemen, added he, you will imagine to be a considerable Fall from Eight thousand.

Not to be over-tedious, added he, I lived but one Year in the Family: For my young Lady, my Master's Daughter, it was said, had fallen in Love with me, and her Mamma, I was told, had caught her writing a

Letter to me, of her Affection for me ; but this I have only upon Hearsay : For nothing, in the Strain of Love, had ever passed between us, save that she ever proved more peculiarly good-humoured to me, than to the rest of the Servants, and always called me Mr. *Francis*.

From thence, under ample Recommendation, I was taken into the Family you, Gentlemen, had me from, said *Frank*, where, staying for about twenty Months, my Master died ; when my Lady, disburdening her Family of such of the Servants as would be useless to her, I, amongst the rest, was discharged, and from thence immediately taken into your Service.

Both *Sharp* and I thanked him for the Entertainment his Story had proved to us ; but it was not our Business to set him above our Service, which stifled those Compliments we might have paid to another Relator.

C H A P. XIII.

Have Scent of a young Heiress at Scarborough ; but of two know not which is she. Frank undertakes to assist. His Discourse with Draper of Miss. Discovers the Secret. Quit Scarborough. Arrive at Bath. Select two Ladies to make Love to. Picquet decides which shall have his Choice. Draper takes Miss Gatewell ; Sharp Miss Westborn. Draper's Suit comes forward. Thinks himself sure of her. She vanishes. His Soliloquy, and Distress.

WHILST we were waiting at Scarborough, and just before we had purposed to leave it, came a very gay Equipage into the Town ; nor could any one inform us further, than that it belonged to a young Lady from London ; but who, or what, or whether Maid, Wife, or Widow, not one of us could answer for.

Her Arrival deferred our Journey, however, till we could learn who and who was together. We had set Frank upon the Enquiry among her Servants, and been as diligent as possible ourselves too ; but such various Reports flew about, as rather confounded, than informed us.

There were two of them, very young Ladies, that always accompanied each other to every publick Place; nor was it distinguishable, by either their Dress, or Behaviour to each other, which was the top Lady of the two; but yet, Rumour spread it about, that a vast rich Heiress was there, though no one could denominate her Person.

Frank, though not wanting in Artifice, could gain us no more Intelligence, than that the lady's Name was *H—b—t*; but which of the Ladies was so called, he could not discover to us.

There were several young Gentlemen at that Time at the *Wells*, and some of them of known Reputation and Fortune, who all had an Eye to this wealthy Heiress; nay, had their Beauties only been laid in the Scales, it would have been difficult to have said which had preponderated; but, as to that, every one was silent, by Choice, till he should have discovered the Heiress, with a pre-engaged Determination in her Favour, whenever he should be able to point her out.

Not a Man who danced, or gamed with either of them, but conceived her to be the desirable Lady; and though he durst not proceed to explain his Sentiments, lest, at length, he should find himself mistaken; yet, he failed not of those Compliments,
that

that might set him fair in her Favour, if she should prove the important She.

We had now both determined upon Courtship; but which of us should attack the Heiress, was the Question, when we should have reduced her to a Certainty: For that, no less depending upon who should carry her, than that the other was to become his Pensioner, it occasioned no little Debate between us, who should first arrive at that Happiness; till at last, neither absolutely declining her, we played by Consent, a single Game at Picquet for that Honour, and the Winner was to address the Lady.

Fortune now declaring for me, all Manner of Aid and Assistance, was to be contributed to my Success in the Affair, by *Sharp*, in Pursuance of a prior Agreement between us, for that Purpose; and whilst we were framing Articles for our future Conduct, instead of referring our Case to Arbitration, we agreed in every future Debate, to be determined by a Rubbers at the same Game.

We had given *Frank* so many Instructions, and sent him upon so many Messages, all relative to the Discovery of this wealthy Lady, without gaining the least Certainty as to her Identity, as gave *Frank* a strong Suspicion of what we would be at: So that the very next Time we gave him Orders to this Purpose, he told us plainly, that he

I 4 believed

believed he could form a near Guess at our Business with the Lady, and if we had either of us an Inclination for Wedlock with her, he had one Means yet left, whereby he might possibly assist us.

We closed with him immediately; assured him of our Gratitude for the Service, and I declared my Intent for addressing her, so soon as I could be informed which of the two Ladies was the real Heiress: For tho' I made no Doubt but that the other was a Lady of no mean Estimation; yet, whilst I held myself disengaged from either, it could be no impolitick Step, to make my Election for the weightiest; so I desired him to state to me, the Method he proposed to gain his Intelligence by, that I might be in some Measure, a Judge of its Feasibility.

I have, replied *Frank*, in the Course of my Endeavours after Satisfaction in this Affair already, many Times consorted with the Ladies Footman, and sometimes been in Company with one of the Maid-servants, who has been with them, and especially last Night, after the Men were dispersed on their Ladies Business, I held a full half Hour's Discourse with her, she being far from an unconvertable Girl, I can assure you, Sir.

Now

Now, what I would prosecute for your Service, added *Frank*, is this. I would make a Visit on Purpose to this Damsel, as a Suitor, make her some pretty Proposals, and tell her, that, as she already possesses my Heart, I am come to offer her my Hand in Wedlock. Why, said *Sharp*, you would not pretend to marry her, would you? Why not, Sir, said *Frank*, to serve my Master? If it proves but a Pretence, so it answers his Purpose. where is the Harm of it? If she takes the Bait, my End will be obtained, she will tell me any Thing, you need not fear, when once we are upon the Story of Matrimony.

I must confess, I thought *Frank* argued from Judgment, and, having told him so, encouraged him to proceed; but he had one Thing still to demand of me, he said, which was, that I would give him Leave, as Occasion should happen for my Service, to say what might best answer his Purpose, as from me, without being offended, should I hear of it again.

Frank, replied I, what you demand, should be accorded by me to very few Persons, I can promise you; but a Knowledge of your Genius and Capacity, have placed you to my View in a far different Light from a common Servant; nor, indeed, regard I

I 5 you

you as such : For which Reason, I agree to your Request, and must refer myself to your Honour and Fidelity, not to make Use of my Name to my Prejudice.

Frank paid his Visits very thick, one upon the Heels of another : For Lovers may be allowed that Impatience, which would not be so readily admitted in other Callings ; and as frequently extolled the Good Nature of the Girl, for permitting him to gain Ground, as fast as reasonable ; till at length he told me, he could point out to me the Lady to whom Rumour had ascribed such vast Possessions. And more than Rumour too, *Frank*, said I, or she is no Wife for me, Boy ; but, prithee, added I, What hast heard of her, and which of the two is the Fortune ?

As to that, Sir, replied *Frank*, it is equally to be made by both of them. What does the Fellow mean by that ? Said I : One of them is Miss *H—b—t*, the Daughter and Heirefs of a rich deceased Merchant in *London*, and is but lately arrived at Age ; this is most certain, it being in every one's Mouth at the publick Wells ; all that I want is, to know which of the two is Miss *H—b—t*. I wanted thee not to enquire into her Fortune.

I thought it best Sir, said *Frank*, when I was about it, to make myself Master of both.

both. Very well, said I, then which of them is Miss *H—b—t*? Neither of them, as yet, Sir, said *Frank*; nor can they suddenly say which is to be.

Prithee, have done with thy Impertinence, said I; and answer me to my Question directly? As I live, Sir, said *Frank*, I can give you no better Information, tho', their own Hearts, in my Judgment, cannot, falsify my Intelligence.

Let me then know, as concisely as possible, all that you have heard of the Ladies, said I.

Sir, said *Frank*, I visited Mrs. *Olivia*, (for that I find to be the Lady's Maid's Name) for three or four Nights running, insisting, that, my Absence from her Company, subjected me to the severest Tortures, and that my Heart was so subdued by her Charms, that if she yielded not to crown my Hopes, by engaging to marry me, I was a dead Man.

When Business is in such urgent Haste, you know, Sir, said he to me, it requires the more immediate Dispatch. This, my Charmer perceiving to be the Case, promised Marriage at my third Visit, and, before we parted that Evening, appointed a Meeting with me as last Night, when her Ladies would be out very late at the Ball.

At

At our Meeting, said *Frank*, having concluded upon the grand Article, that of our Marriage, I told her, that I had one of the best Gentlemen in the World, for my Master, and that so generous had you been to me, for my faithful Services, that you had engaged to keep me as long as I lived, unless you should die first, and then, to settle a very handsome Maintenance upon me.

What a Pox could be in your Head, *Frank*, said I, for running on with such a rhodomontade Story, and that, to the Destruction of your own Hopes in her? For what Benefit could she expect from Matrimony, if you was always to live with me? Nor doubt I, but she demanded of you that very Question.

If you would please but to be patient, Sir, said *Frank*, you should hear the Whole, by Degrees. I say, Sir, added *Frank*, I told her you would do so and so for me, in case I should not marry; but if I should join myself to a good sober Woman, as I took her to be, and according to your Taste, you would then take her also into your Service, as Housekeeper, or whatever other Place she might approve; whereby, I told her, we might live like Princes; adding, that I could wish it was in our Power to procure one of her young Ladies to marry you, Sir,
and

of two Modern Adventurers. 181

and then, my Dear, said I, kissing her, we should all be, as it were, at home, and of a Family still; nay, my Love, said I, if we could get my Master to such a Wife as your Lady, what would he not think himself obliged to do further for us?

Hush! said she, (judging that the Pleasure I took in the Thought, had raised my Voice too high) say no more of the Matter; that would undo us both for ever, and, instead of your Master's lovingly entertaining us both, he would kick us both out of his Doors.—Don't you know, that *all is not Gold that glitters*, my Dear? said she. True, replied I; but if Miss is so great a Fortune as they talk of, would not so much Money please him, think you? said I.

My two young Ladies, Child, said she, to speak freely between you and me, where it will go no further, have but borrowed the Name of *H—b—t*, to be used as Occasion may serve; for that, whichever of them picks up a rich Husband in this Tour, is to pass ever after by her own Name, and the other is to be Miss *H—b—t*: For which Reason, we, their Servants, are not to discover which is Miss *H—b—t*; that she who is not so happy as to get the Husband, may take the Name. Now, the first Man, marrying one of them as Miss *H—b—t*,
will

will find himself deceived, without imagining himself to be imposed upon ; for whichever of them the Men shall take for Miss *H—b—t*, they presume, will be carried off without further Ceremony, or Enquiry into Niceties, when there is such a noble Fortune in the Case.

I told her, I would not for the World you should be the Person so deceived ; then begging her to consider against my next Visit, what Day she would appoint for our Nuptials, I took my Leave. Now, Sir, said *Frank*, if you have any Thing further to say to these two, no Ladies, I am ready to obey you accordingly. I told him, that would require further Consideration, and if I had, he should hear from me.

Sharp, now, returning from a Walk, I acquainted him with the Information *Frank* had given me, and how he had obtained it; when, after a few Moments Consideration, he asked me, Whether I gave Credit to it? I replied, that I had no Reason to the contrary. Then, said *Sharp*, we having no further Business at this expensive Place, let us take Horse for some other, and leave them to some other Cullies.

This I esteeming no impolitick Advice, readily came into: So that, ordering *Frank* to prepare against Morning, we then took
Flight

Flight with the first Dawn, Southward, having Time enough upon our Hands for Consideration, where we should next pitch our Tents most commodiously.

The Charge of three Horses and Men, eat daily into our Cash like a Canker, till we dreaded its total Consumption, unless we could spring some Game, worthy our Ammunition.

We were not long deciding the Question for *Bath*, its Season then favouring us; and here again we arrived, as young Gentlemen of Fortune, travelling for Information, and Pleasure.

We attended the Baths, the Pump-Room, the Long-Rooms, gamed for Trifles, and, in short, were to be seen at every polite Assembly; till, at length, we had concluded upon two of the most proper young Ladies, as we were informed, in the whole Circle, for our present Purpose; one of whom was Mistress both of her own Person and Fortune, and the other was also a Lady of great Worth, a *West-Indian*, educated in *England*, and was then under the Inspection of an old Aunt, who accompanied her thither.

Miss *Gatewell*, as I shall call her, was esteemed rich; but Miss *Westborn*, was a Lady of *Jamaica*, which, as she was said to be an only Child, filled our Ideas so full of
Slaves,

Slaves, and Plantations, as to overbear, by far, all Reflections of pecuniary Wealth, in our Estimations: For we dreamed of Principalities, at least, upon Information that her Father was one of the Council, and a chief Planter amongst those Islanders: So that though we had already ingrossed them both for our own Purposes, which of us should address to the Foreigner, was the grand Question: For, notwithstanding the good Harmony that ever subsisted between us, at other Times, the least Scent of a superior Mistress, filled us with Jealousy for each others good Fortune: So that after several Inducements alledged, on either Side, for the other to make his Election to Miss *Gatewell*; the extraneous Charms of Miss *Westborn* proved so prevailing, as to drive us to our final Award, a Game at Picquet, as the Composer of all our Controversies; and here, the Decision appearing on *Sharp's* Side, we straitways fell lovingly into the Assistance of each other in the Attainment of our several Ladies.

I had, in a short Time, advanced with my Approaches so effectually to Miss *Gatewell*, as to have once or twice danced with her, and had as often drank Tea at her Lodgings; till now, we were perfectly acquainted, and wherever we met, failed not of chatting with each other,

other, till, by the more than ordinary Complaisance of my Behaviour to her, I was assured she beheld in me a Suitor.

I was loath to strike the bold Stroke of demanding her in Wedlock, till the many Expressions of her Favour to me, which accumulated daily, might have left her without Sense of Refusal to my Suit: For which Reason I furnished her daily, with fresh Occasions of Attachment to me; nor scrupled I the Expence, which would be repaid with such a Premium, as I had every Reason to expect she would introduce me to: For our Familiarity was arrived to the Height of writing to each other, upon several Occasions, of Parties at Diversions, and such like, whereat I was sure to make one with her; till she herself had even stiled me her Champion; by which Name, I even prided myself to be entitled amongst her Companions. The Occasion was this; she, and some of her young Acquaintance, had agreed upon a Tour to *Bristol*, there being three of them to go in her Coach, and one of them expressing some Fear of Molestation in their Return, as it would be late in the Evening first; Miss replied, that, as there would be a spare Corner in her Coach, if they pleased, she would fill it with her Champion,

in

in whose Company, she would engage for their Safety.

In short, after what had already passed between us, I began to be sure of my Prize: For which Reason, after a most peculiar Intimacy for full two Months, meeting, with what I esteemed as fair an Opportunity as could be offered me; one Afternoon as I was drinking Tea with her, I declared how infinitely I was obliged to her, for the Delight I had enjoyed in her Conversation, for the two last Months; but unless she would farther contribute to my Happiness, by enlarging the Term to my Life's End, my Infelicity, would but oppress me with so much the more Violence, by how much I had been the nearer to the blessed Hope of continuing it till my latest Breath.

I then urged her, to reject all the Scruples of her Sex, and to admit me to those Raptures, that her favourable Sentence, only, would convey to my Senses, and under which, only, she would be desirable to me.

I could perceive her to redden at my Speech, which I took for a happy Omen, and was proceeding to some Endearments, which I scarce could believe but she expected from me; when, rising hastily, and leaving the Room, this, said she, is what I had little Expectation of, and muttered something

thing farther to herself, but was soon past my hearing of it.

I waited a While for the Lady's Return, imagining, that after she had somewhat cooled herself by Reflection, I should see her again; but, instead of Miss, (after about Half an Hour's Lecture, that I had read to my own Condemnation for being so forward, as to push for Favours she might not yet be ripe for granting) comes her Man, to let me know, that his Lady was engaged for the Afternoon.

This I took, as undoubtedly it was meant, for a Request of my Absence, and accordingly, taking my Hat, I retired; but with an Heart as full of Throbbing, as had his Message been the Sentence of my Decapitation.

I made a Shift, however, to steer myself safe to my Lodgings, where, locking my Chamber-Door, and casting myself backwards into a vast old Elbow-Chair by the Fireside, I began to reflect upon my past Day's Work, and what a fine End I had made of my Amour.

Blockhead! said I, that I was, after so short a Standing as our Acquaintance has been of, to attempt Familiarities (Indecencies, unquestionably, as a Woman of her nice Taste stiles them) with a Lady of her Rank,

Rank, and Fortune in Life ! What could I conceive, save what has happened, to be the End of them ! My Hand upon her naked Bosom ! Matchless Audacity ! Nay, Stupidity rather in me, to think of handling her, with as little Reserve, as a Butcher a Sheep, before his Purchase ! Besides, said I, should not I have considered her Station, and have made my Approaches cautiously, and always under Doubt of her Displeasure ? Such Conduct, would have given Exercise to her Compassion, that Jewel of her Sex, and have compelled her to Acquiescence with my Suit, in Avoidance of my continual Anguish.

But what, if she already relents towards me ? And though Modesty might claim the exhibiting a few Clouds upon her Brow, and the Resentment she was obliged to show me ; yet having so done, she can never be inexorable ; but may equally crave my Society again by this Time, as I myself do her's.

The Method that she took, said I, for obtaining my Absence by, shews the Height of good Breeding, at least, if not of Affection too : For what milder Message could I have received, than that she was engaged for the Afternoon ?—Engaged !—So that it might be Company, that had
pre-

prevented her Return to me, for the Afternoon; as who should say, the Time of our Absence, I have limited to this Evening; but hope we shall meet again To-morrow.

Under this Interpretation, I consoled myself till the next Morning; when I drest as engagingly as possible, in order, that should her Displeasure continue, for the Unpoliteness of my Conduct the last Night, the bare Sight of me might, incontinently, dissipate it; but though I walked over the Ground for some Hours, even till the Company was all dispersed, and I could scarce reach my Lodging through Fatigue; yet not the least enlivening Glance of the Lady could I procure there; nor durst I enquire for her, lest it might have given Occasion for her denying herself to me.

I said nothing all this While to *Sharp*, lest I should have suffered under his Sentence for my Folly; nor could I swallow the least Mouthful of Dinner that Day; but my Pretence for it was, an Heaviness I felt at my Stomach, for which I had ever found fasting the speediest Remedy; tho', in Truth, my Perplexities sat so galling upon me, as to have rendered my Food tasteless to me; for tho' I made little Difficulty of believing I should soon be received

4

into

into her good Graces again ; yet, I feared, that my Overnight's Misbehaviour, would set all Freedom between us, for some Time, at a remoter Distance than before.

I went therefore to the Assembly-Room in the Evening, with a Certainty of finding Miss there, being what I had never once known her to absent herself from ; but, to my immense Mortification, not a Soul there had seen her all Day.

What was I now at leave to conjecture, but that either mine, or her own late Conduct, had stuck so close to her Mind, as to have occasioned her some Disorder, which had confined her to her Apartment ; and this I was resolved to be informed of, either by myself, or *Frank*, the next Morning.

To trace out by Sketches, the infinite Suggestions that my Imagination abounded with, for the Whole of the ensuing Night, wherein I never once so much as closed my Eyelids to Rest, would prove as burdensome to my Reader, as they were painful to myself, in the Operation : So that I shall only add, the Scuffle I had with myself in the Morning, whether *Frank*, or I, should be the Bearer of my Compliments to Miss, upon inquiring after her Health. This, at length, falling to my own Lot, I repaired

to the Walks again, in Hopes of seeing her there; but, being disappointed, my next Advance was to her Lodgings; where, asking for Miss *Gatewell's* Woman, that I might have delivered my Errand to her, I was informed, that the Lady had left *Bath* early on the preceeding Morning; nor could the Mistress of the Lodging-house answer to my further Demand, to what Part of the Kingdom she had retired, or where was her settled Residence.

I may say, very safely, though many had been the cross Accidents that I had suffered under, that I never was truly sensible of the Force of a Disappointment, till the Instant I am now speaking of; nor had Death presented itself to me, in its most hideous and affrighting Shapes, would I have wagged a Limb to have avoided it. A Scene of Horror seized upon my Intellects, and my whole Composition was a Mass of Confusion. I was too restless in my Mind to bear Company or Conversation: So that, sneaking up to my Chamber, I undressed myself, and threw myself into my Bed, from whence I hoped never to rise more, and there give Vent to my Sorrow, by tacit Lamentations, and Weeping.

C H A P. XIV.

Sharp wants Miss Westborn in private. Has a vigilant Aunt. Would draw Frank into a Scheme. He parries it off. Approved by the Parties. Executed. Gains the Ear of the Fair. Is the old Lady's Favourite.

WHILST I had been thus fooling away my Time with Miss Gatewell, Sharp had so wrought himself into Miss Westborn's Affections, that little more was wanting to the Completion of his Enterprize, than a fair Opportunity for an Ecclaircissement between them, which had hitherto been rendered altogether impracticable, thro' the vigilant Eye, that her old Aunt watched all her Motions with: For being herself a Maiden Lady still, her Brain was replete with the Tricks of her own youthful Days, and she was so well apprized of the Lovers Artifices, as to be perfectly upon her Guard against them; insomuch, that not one of their Appointments for a private Meeting, had ever proved successful; nor had Sharp ever yet been so happy as to have drank Tea with the young Lady, or been admitted to further Conference with her, than an Hint or so, whilst her Partner in the publick Rooms.

Sharp

Sharp had racked his Brains almost to splitting, for a Means to remedy this Evil, without hitting on the least plausible Expedient ; till at length, having observed that the old Lady, and Miss never failed every Morning, to take a Whirl in their Coach upon *Lansdown*, or some of the other Hills there ; he resolved to put such a Trick upon the old wary Lady, as, by her own Consent, should open her Doors to him.

With this View, *Sharp* taking *Frank* aside one Morning, *Frank* ; said he, I have observed thee to be a Fellow of a scheming Head, and capable of going through with an Undertaking of Consequence : Such an one I have now to employ you upon ; which if you will but exert yourself in with Effect, for my Service, besides the Obligation it will lay upon me, to serve you in any future Capacity, I will not fail, if we succeed, of presenting you very handsomely.

Frank took it for an Affair of Love, that being, for the most Part, the Article young Heads are the deepest engaged in ; and therefore he replied to his Master, that he might command him in every Thing in his Power to perform.

Frank, said *Sharp*, I am in Love. So I expected, Sir, said *Frank*. And, added *Sharp*, my Mistress favours my Views.

Good again, said *Frank*. But, added *Sharp*, she has an old Maiden Aunt. The very Bane of all youthful Desires, said *Frank*. Right, said *Sharp*; nor will this old Woman admit either me, or even the Shape of a Pair of Breeches, to penetrate within her Dwelling. I readily believe it, Sir, said *Frank*.

Now, *Frank*, added *Sharp*, I want such an Errand, inviting me to the young Lady's Lodgings, as this old Vermin shall not be able to oppose. That will be doing Business, indeed, Sir, said *Frank*; if you can but contrive any such. Let me alone for that, said his Master, if you stand but staunch to my Interest. As how? Sir, said *Frank*.

Sharp then told him, that the Lady and her Aunt going every Morning to air themselves, upon some of the neighbouring Hills; if he would but equip as an Highwayman, and furiously attack the Coach, whilst himself should be within Distance to relieve it, and would fly from the Ladies upon his Approach, the old Lady, after such a signal Piece of Service, could never oppose his personal Attendance, the next Day, upon her Niece, to enquire how she fared after her Fright; when, having once made his Entrance, he doubted not gaining the old Lady's

Lady's Esteem so far, as to be admitted to further Intercourse with them.

Frank, pausing a While; I have somewhat considered this Affair, Sir, said he, and would go as far as any Man to serve you; but, I own, it would grieve me to go to the Gallows with that View.—I am to commit a Robbery upon the Highway, added he;—you are to relieve the Ladies;—they send Hue and Cry after me;—I am apprehended, lie in Goal till next Affizes, and then am hanged, that your Mistress may open her a Door to you, Sir. I profess myself, continued *Frank*, to have ever been an utter Enemy to hanging; or, had I been that Way inclined, I have had Occasions enough to have drawn me into the Practice.

Sharp beginning to tremble, lest his Project should prove wholly abortive: *Frank*, said he, you speak of it as a necessary Consequence, that, because you happen just to stop these Ladies Coach for me, therefore you must necessarily be hanged for it; but the Affair appears in quite a different Light to me. We shall do it when Nobody is within Sight; and, for your further Satisfaction, the young Lady shall be apprized of what she is to expect, and so shall prevent an Hue and Cry: For that, should

K 2

the

the Robber be taken, she should never enjoy another easy Moment whilst she lives. Will that satisfy you? said *Sharp*.

Sir, said *Frank*, put me but into any Way of being safe myself, and you shall find me all Obedience; but tho' this may, in Speculation, seem a Trifle to you; yet I must profess, that few Things would be more hateful to me, than the practical Part of hanging.

Sharp then engaging to order Matters so, as that there should be no Fear of Mischief to befall him, *Frank* told him, he would in such Case undertake the Job; whereupon, *Sharp* wrote the following Letter for Miss, which he resolved to deliver to her that very Night, if possible.

Mr. JOHN SHARP,

To Miss WESTBORN.

Most charming Lady,

THE many Expressions of your Favour to my Suit, will for ever retain me your Debtor; but, alas! whilst I am confined from pouring forth my very Soul into your Bosom, save only by such Starts, as I can issue forth in half Words, and broken Sentences, in publick, with your Guardian
ever

ever at your Elbow: what Anguish must I sustain, who have Millions of Things, for the Ear of my fair One in private?

Might I but be permitted to point out a Way to remedy this; and might it but meet, dear Miss, with your Approbation; it should be one Morning, when you and the old Lady are airing yourselves, to surprize you by my Man, in Form of an Highway-man, at a Time when I may be near enough to appear to your Assistance; and by driving away the supposed Robber, to relieve you from the Strait you would seem to be in.

This, my dearest Lady, I would hope, would pave a fair Path for me to enter your Lodgings by, for enquiring after your Healths since your Fright; nor, having performed so great a Piece of Service to you both, could the old Lady, for Shame, but admit of such an Errand, though but to thank me, for my Concern for you both; when, having once gained the Speech of your Aunt, it must be my own Fault, if I lose my Hold of her Favour.

If my lovely Miss can but approve of this my Scheme, under her own Hand Tomorrow Night, conveyed to me, in Manner as this to her, the Favour shall be ever

198 *The* HISTORY

under Acknowledgment, till with Life itself, I cease to be,

Dear Miss,

Your most Faithful Admirer,

J. SHARP.

The above Letter, Mr. *Sharp* shewed to *Frank*, who assured him, that if the Lady, by her Answer, favoured the Enterprize, he would readily undertake it: So that *Sharp*, dressing elegantly, went in the Evening to the publick Room, where, watching his Opportunity, in offering the Lady a Pinch from his Snuff-box, he slipt the Letter into her Hand, without the least Notice from any one; and the next Evening, at the same Place, she returned him the following Answer.

Miss WESTBORN, to JOHN SHARP, *Esq;*

SIR,

THE old Lady you condemn, is in her Duty, enjoined her by my Father. My Business is to circumvent; her's to prevent. Your Project promises Success; and that your Servant may not be under the least imaginable Fear of Detection, my Footman shall

shall be engaged at home next *Tuesday* Morning, and my Tour will be through *Walcot*. I shall be miserably terrified; but my Aunt, perhaps, more so. Call in the Afternoon, (that you may take her before her Fears are entirely dismissed) upon

Your's,

E. WESTBORN.

Sharp also shewed *Frank* his Lady's Letter, whereupon he prepared himself for Action.

Sharp had now five hundred other Projects in his Pate, as secondary to the grand Design. He rode over, the next Day, to *Bristol*, to seek for an Apothecary, from whom, after some Debate, he procured a Liquid, which, upon taking fifteen or twenty Drops of it in a Glass of Wine, would lock up the Senses in Stupefaction, for the Space of an Hour or more, and would extend the Time, in Proportion to the Number of Drops put in; but of this he was very inquisitive, lest instead of giving the old Lady a Nap only, he should send her to the other World: So that, having learned the perfect Operation of the Soporifick, he prepared him two Phials, one with clear Wine, and the other with the Drops in it, against the Time of Action; then having

sent *Frank* out early in the Morning, they were to meet about two Miles from *Bath*, at a particular Time limited ; so that they might but see each other at a Distance, to be certain that all was prepared.

Sharp followed the Coach at a certain Distance, almost all the Way from *Bath* ; till at length he saw *Frank* a good Space before him, meeting the Coach ; when *Sharp*, as had been agreed, pulling out his Handkerchief, flourished it about, as with Intent to apply it to his Nose.

This being the Signal whereby *Frank* was to know that his Master saw him, he galloped up boldly to the Coach Side, demanding the Ladies Money, Watches, and Jewels, or he would instantly shoot them through the Head. Miss screamed, to bring forwards her Lover ; and the old Lady was half dead, with Apprehensions for her Niece, who had made no Motion towards parting with her Money as yet ; expecting every Moment, when the Highwayman would fire at her, as he swore he would, for her Delay ; for she had already her own prepared for him : But just as the old Lady's Conclusions were at the Height, and she was ready to die for Fear, up comes *Sharp*, and falls upon *Frank* with his Hanger, the only weapon he had ; vowing, that rather

ther than he should distress the Ladies, he would waste the last Drop of his Blood in their Service. Thus, after a few blustering Speeches, and a Sort of mock Fight, *Sharp* put the Robber to Flight, and then applied himself to the Ladies, hoping they had received no Injury, and intreated them to shake off their Surprise; but Miss plaid her Part so well, that there was scarce any keeping Life in her, at sight of his naked Weapon; so that the old Lady, with the little Spirits she had left, desired him to put it up again.

Sharp had already comforted them as far as Words would go; but all to so little Purpose, that now, drawing forth one of his Phials from his Pocket, he desired the young Lady to take a Sip of it, as a Specifick against Hystericks, and what he himself found exceeding salutary, in Lowness of Spirits, which was a Disorder he was frequently troubled with.

Miss knew not what it might be; but, coming from the Hand that offered it to her, she had little Cause to suspect it mischievous: So she took down two or three Gulps of it, upon which *Sharp* put it again into his Pocket; when, as recollecting himself, that he had not made the like Offer to the old Lady, he beg'd Abundance of Par-

dons for the Oversight: For that truly he was so confused, as not to know well what he did; then, taking out the other Phial, which was purposely not quite filled, like the first, he presented it to the Aunt, who would have declined it, as being then pretty well recovered, she said; but *Sharp* urging her to take an hearty Sip, and Miss extolling its Efficacy, she at length played a bold Pull at it, and excellent good it was, she said; but the old Woman, had not long swallowed it, before she was safe from overhearing them; and even snored again.

This so sudden Turn gave Miss some Apprehension, that her Aunt was worse than she thought for; infomuch, that she called to the Coachman to stop, whilst *Sharp*, tying his Horse behind, stept into the Coach to Miss, and whispered her, that it was only the Effect of a Dose he had given her; but she would be alert and lively again, by the Time they should reach home.

Miss growing perfectly composed at hearing this, they indulged themselves over their own Affairs, till they came within a little of *Bath* again; but Miss had ordered the Fellow to drive as slowly as possible, for Fear of prejudicing her Aunt.

They

They blessed themselves, upon the happy Issue of their Contrivance; but above all, Miss said, his Dram of the Bottle had proved the most effectual Composer that ever she had till then met with.

In short, nothing now so much oppressed them, as that the Time of their Parting approached. For the Lady, having given two or three loud Yawns, they soon expected her Return to the living World again; when, that he might not be suspected, of paying more Regard to the young, than the old Lady, *Sharp* desired Miss, who sat on the same Seat with her Aunt, to change Places with him; then, taking the old one within his left Arm, with her Head upon his Breast, he held her so, till she was thoroughly awakened: The old Lady seeming surprized at the Sight of *Sharp* so near her, he pretended, that observing the Condition she was in, and that no Help was near, he had entered the Coach, merely, that he might support her from falling, or bruising herself against the Wood-Work. She returned him Abundance of Thanks for the Trouble he had given himself, with such an old Woman, as few Gentlemen would have esteemed worthy of their Concern.

Being

Being now near the Entrance of the City, *Sharp* told the old Lady, he hoped she would have no more Occasion for him; wherefore, with her Leave, he would quit the Coach, and mount his Horse which he had fastened behind it. She was so delighted with the Care *Sharp* had taken of her, and with the little Regard he seemed to pay her Niece, that she invited him to dine with her; but, not to seem over fond of their Company, more than good Manners obliged him to, he said, he hoped she would excuse his giving her that Trouble; but added, that if she would give him Leave, he would just crave the Pleasure of hearing she had perfectly recovered her Surprize, over a Dish of Tea in the Afternoon.

CHAP. XV.

Frank relates the Affair to Draper. Sharp visits the Ladies. Compliments on both Sides. Sharp put to the Blush by the Aunt. Circumvents her.

SHARP was so delighted with his Morning's Advantage over the old Lady, that, upon his Return, he ran open mouth'd

to me with his Success; extolling his Contrivance to the Skies. As for *Frank's* Part, he said, he performed it to a Miracle; but what had become of him since, he could not imagine; for he might have been at home long before him.

The Gusto with which *Sharp* related this Adventure to me, might have given me equal Delight with himself at any other Time; but it falling out, the very next Day after Miss *Gatewell* had played such a slippery Trick with me, I had no Relish for it; neither could *Sharp*, though he perceived his Report to be all Flatness to me, refrain from recounting to me, every the minutest Circumstance of the Transaction: For it frequently happens, that a Man full fraught with a lucky Incident, exposes it with Delight to his Friend, not so much for the Satisfaction it will administer to him, as for the Pleasure redounding to himself from the Repetition of it.

Frank was now arrived, just before *Sharp* set forwards in the Afternoon for Miss *Westborn's* Lodgings; so that, being soon after all alone, and immersed in Melancholy and Vapours, I called *Frank* up to me, that, by his Relation of the Circumstances of his Attack upon the Ladies, he might probably, in some Measure, dissipate my hippish Fancies,

Fancies, and enliven my Spirits a little : For there were but few Persons whose Manner of embellishing a Story, both in masterly Diction, properly chosen Similies, and well adapted Hints, I could prefer to *Frank's*.

I enquired into his Dress, which he told me was an old Great-Coat that he had purchased, when with Mr. *Sharp* at *Bristol*. His Horse, he told me, was hired of a Farmer without the City, and that he had cut an old Wig into the Form that best suited his Employment ; that he had, for two or three Days before, practised a proper Voice, and had acted the Part by himself, till he was quite Master of it, and could be at no Loss upon the Onset ; but, he said, he could scarce keep his Countenance, whilst Mr. *Sharp* and he were bullying each other, like Desperadoes, just ripe for each other's Destruction ; and that, had it not been that his Face was enwrapped in a Crape Hat-band, they might easily, by his Countenance, have discovered the mock Part he was acting ; but he extolled the young Lady to the Skies, as one of the compleatest Performers of her Part, that ever he beheld in his Life ; adding, that so soon as his Time was come for making off, he turned up a By-Lane, where he stripped himself of his Great-Coat and Wig, the latter
whereof,

whereof, he first bundled up in the former, and then sunk them both in a Pond, by the Help of some large Stones that he inclosed therein.

He now took a Turn of some Miles, he said, jogging on very seriously; in order to cool his Horse, whom he had heated even to a Foam, in his first Flight; till, having delivered the Beast to the Owner, he walked home, as honest an Highwayman as ever quitted the Road.

At *Sharp's* Arrival at Miss *Westborn's* Lodgings, he found her waiting for him in the Parlour, her Aunt, she said, being just gone up to change her Neck Handkerchief, imagining that Scarlet suited not her Complexion, but gave it an higher Colour than she could wish: So that, whilst the old Beauess was settling that Point, the young ones enjoyed themselves, in a Way agreeable to their own Inclinations.

Miss let him into her Father's living abroad, informed him of her Father's Substance, his Number of Negroes, the Extent of his Plantations, and so many other Particulars, which had been recounted to her, as set him agog for their Nuptials Completion; lest somebody, more worthy of such Possessions than himself, should interpose to his own Confusion: For I, having
been

been so contemptibly deserted by Miss *Gatewell*, *Sharp* could never judge himself secure of the Lady's Person, till the indissoluble Knot was tied.

They had adjusted other Preliminaries before the old Lady came down ; for upon the Prospect of a Male Visitant, she had even changed her Cap, as well as her Handkerchief, and added Abundance of Ribbons to her Head-Gear : So that, upon making her Appearance to them, had it not been for a monstrous Scar over her Right-Eye, and the Remarkableness of her toothless Mouth, *Sharp* would scarce have known her again ; but these directing him past all Suspicion of a Mistake, he, in a very serious and affecting Tone, beg'd to know how she found herself, after the severe Shock she had suffered from the Highwayman in the Morning.

She hoped she should feel no ill Effects from it, she said ; for that, indeed, she was better than she could have expected, after such a Surprise as she had undergone ; not only on her own Behalf, but upon her Niece's Account, whom she expected to have fallen into Fits every Moment.

Sharp replied, that Persons of the young Lady's Age, were better able to shake off such sudden Surprises than their Seniors ; but that, for his Part, nothing ever af-
fected

fectcd him more, than to see her fall motionless against the Back of the Coach, with only Miss, in her then confused State, to assist her: So that he hoped she would pardon his Boldness, in placing himself by her, that she might recline her Head upon his Bosom, in Prevention of the Mischief she might otherwise have received, from a Jolt against the Coach Sides, or Glasses.

The old Lady apologized very much for the Inconvenience she had drawn upon him, in supporting her for so long a Way; insisting, that it must have been vastly fatiguing to him; but *Sharp* very gravely replied, that nothing in Life could be more pleasing to him, than a Capacity for relieving so much Merit, in the Distress she then seemed to him to be, from both her own and her Niece's Horrors; but when, indeed, he beheld her, as he thought, lifeless, his very Heart bled so for her, that he could not refrain from cherishing her, in the best Manner he was able, at the Expence of every Fatigue to his own Person.

Sharp, during the Time of his Stay, almost wholly addressing himself, upon every Subject they started, to the Aunt; and taking but little Notice of the young Lady, the old one could behold him in no other Light, than either as a Courtier to herself,
or

or for a Man, whose Modesty having gained the Ascendant of his Passions, might prove, at least, a very valuable Companion, both to herself and her Niece too: For, let the Strictness of a Lady's Virtue be ever so prevalent, scarce one in a thousand can enjoy the true Relish of that Society, that is not seasoned with the Conversation of a Male: So that the old Lady, at his Departure, even told him she should always be glad of his Company, whenever he would do them the Favour to call: For that she could never sufficiently acknowledge the Obligation she was under to him, for his Care, and Concern for her Safety.

Sharp, having thus gained an unlimited Footing in the Family, Matters went on swimmingly between him and his Mistress; nor had the old Lady the least Suspicion of a Love Intrigue between them, from the Indifference he behaved with towards her Niece: For, whenever the old Woman left them together, as she would often do many Times in an Hour or two, being nimble as an Eel, notwithstanding she was near Seventy; she was sure to find him, either walking carelessly about the Room, or staring at the Window, with his Back to her Niece, in so unthinking a Manner, as if no such Person existed.

The

The young ones never met, but they assuredly fixed their next Meeting; so that Miss was always below ready to receive him; and, as few Words are equally significant with Lovers, to many with other Folks, *Sharp* and his Lady, understanding each other's Meaning, he seldom stayed long, before he had sent for the old Lady down, which was another strong Inducement for her to believe, his Visits were solely to herself; till, at length, through Impatience for a Knowledge of his Sentiments, one Day, when her Niece was out of the Room, she told him, that a Man of the Character he appeared with, would scarce pay so many Visits to a Couple of single Women, unless he had some further View in them, than barely the Amusement their Conversation would afford him; and therefore, desired he would intimate to her, if he had any View to her Niece, that she might, at once, give him a satisfactory Answer?

Poor *Sharp*, though none of the bashfullest of Mortals, had never before in his Life-time, been so put to it for a Reply, as to this Speech of the old Lady's; but an Answer being expected, must, at all Events, be given to it; therefore, not hammering long for a Reply, he assured her, that there
migh

might be other Motives for a Gentleman's Inclination for the Ladies Society, than that they were youthful. He acknowledged he was but a Youth yet himself; but he had met with that Solidity, Sense, and Judgment in those of riper Years, and more Experience, which had ever biased him to a consociation with them.

The Sentiments of the Youth of both Sexes, he said, he had found full of Levity; their Arguments were frothy, and their Conduct, many Times, indiscreet; whereas, on the other Hand, their Seniors abounded with Strength of Reason, and Soundness of Judgment, which, with him, outbalanced all the others Sprightliness, and Foolery; nay, often had he concluded with himself, that, if ever he changed his Condition, it should be rather with a Lady of Years, and Understanding, than either for the Sake of Youth, or Beauty; but owned, that his Disposition, opposite to that of his Sex, had hitherto disqualified him for Explanations of his Mind, to those Objects he held most worthy of his Affection; lest meeting with a Rebuff, at his first setting out, should implant in him a Disrelish for all further Proceedings.

Sharp knew not well what he had said, he was so confounded at the old Lady's Demand;

mand; but she, interpreting it all to his Affection for herself, and an awful Modesty, that had restrained him from divulging his real Sentiments; replied, that very few Ladies, she believed, however disposed to his Pleasure, would be so impolite as to reject his Request in an unbecoming Manner; for that every Lady was a Favourer, at least, of the Qualities he possessed, though, possibly, not of his Suit, from various Turns in their Affairs; as Pre-engagement, or an absolute Resolution against the Marriage-State; nor was it a Thing credible to her, that a Gentleman of his Youth and Capacity, should be averred from the State of Matrimony.

The old Lady, by this Harangue, had so hampered *Sharp*, that he knew not well how to extricate himself: For, should he declare for her Niece, he disputed not, but he should suffer my Fate, and, perhaps, neither ever hear from, or see her more; and, should he declare for the old Lady, and common Prudence direct her to refuse him, all Pretences, for a further Repetition of his Visits, would fail him; and, *lastly*, should she favour his Demand, what an Imputation would it lay upon his Honour, to relinquish her, at last, for her Niece?

In

In this Dilemma, poor *Sharp*, having but short Space to consider in, was rather desirous of suffering in his Honour, than in his Love Affair: So that, as she had given him so fair an Occasion, he said, of disclosing to her a Secret which he had purposed should have died with him; and hoping that she was so far Mistress of her own Passions, as to subscribe to her own Positions; he beg'd Leave to assure her, that from the first Moment of hearing her deliver herself so strenuously, as she had sometimes in his Presence done, in publick Audience; but much more so, since he had the late Honour of her private Conversation; her Manners, good Sense, and Sentiments, had made such an Impression upon him, as that, should she not deign to admit of him as her Partner for Life, yet, he hoped she would never absolutely dismiss him from her Familiarity and Friendship; whereby he might never be wanting of that Pleasure which her Society alone would administer to him.

The old Lady, drawing up her Neck, smoothing her Apron, and crossing her Hands before her, to shew the fine Fall of her Shoulders, asked him, if he had as yet considered the Disparity of their Ages? The very Thing, Madam, replied *Sharp*,
that

that captivates me. My sole Ambition, Madam, added he, is to conjoin myself to my Seniors. It has been my Practice from my Infancy, and amongst my own Sex, I have ever sought out such, whose Age and Experience have qualified them for my Instructors. What were Life, Madam, added he, but for a daily Augmentation of our Knowledge in it? If then, to know, be to live; how much longer may he be said to live who knows much, than he, who knows but little? And if I can add that Wisdom to myself, in a single Night's Conversation, which those I obtain it from, have spent Years in procuring, may not I be said to have lived those Years myself? Now every my Hopes of this Kind, I am under no Doubt of gratifying, Madam, in your Company, and Conversation, added he; and as these Desires preponderate in me, so much more also must my Inclination, for establishing myself in an absolute Certainty of the enjoying them, for Life, with you.

I own, I may have presumed to look too far above my Match; but this, Madam, I must trust to your Pardon: For yourself, have wrung from me these Sentiments, I should, otherwise, have for ever reserved in my own Bosom; though there, they had not failed to have consumed me.

C H A P. XVI.

Sharp courts the Aunt for her Antiquity. Lends Miss a Lift by the By. The old Lady's Encomiums on Sharp. Vanity unbecoming in Age. Love flows apace. Sharp looked on as one of the Family. Miss and Sharp agree to Wedlock. On their Journey to London. Are married privately by the Way. Old Lady receives a Remittance. Tricked out of it by Sharp, who declares his Marriage with her Niece. All in a Flame.

SCARCE had *Sharp* finished his Address to the old Lady, before *Miss* ran into the Room to them, with a new Gown in her Hand, for her Aunt to buy for her. It was a Piece of *India* Quilting, and Needle-Work, of a Variety of Colours, and seemed to *Sharp*, to be one of the most beautiful Things he had ever before beheld; but *Miss* herself was so captivated with it, that she entreated her Aunt to buy it for her, or she should go wild, she said; for it was the sweetest Thing she had ever seen, and she was sure she should be taken out to open the Ball, the very first Night she should be seen in it.

Her

Her Aunt would fain have diverted her Fancy from too tawdry a Thing, as she called it; adding, that there were all the Colours of the Rainbow in it; besides, she told her, that having brought three new Suits to *Bath* with her, she had certainly Change of Apparel enough already, and as they should soon be for returning to *London*, she might there have far better Choice than what she could meet with from an Hawker; nor, indeed, did they scarce ever carry about other than damaged Goods, such as the fair Dealer would be ashamed to expose in his own Shop.

Neither this, or ten times as much had the old Lady urged it, would have had other Effect upon Miss, than to have made her more earnest for the Purchase; for it was a most charming Thing, she said, and she was sure it would become her exceedingly.

The old Lady then turning to *Sharp*, who had sat neuter during the Debate, Sir, said she, pray give me your Opinion of my Niece's Fancy?

Madam, replied *Sharp*, having made Dress the least Part of my past Studies, and especially that of the Ladies, I must confess myself a most incompetent Judge thereof; but we all know, that Youth has

its peculiar Taste to be gratified, and the Habit that delights the Wearer, is presumed to give no less Satisfaction to the Eye of others, than her own; therefore, as to make every Habit agreeable, it must be to the Wearer's Fancy, pray let me, for once, interpose on the Behalf of this young Lady, for your Compliance to her Request.

Miss thanked him, for having given the Affair so beneficial a Turn in her Favour; and now, Aunt, said she, what can you alledge against what the Gentleman says? For, to be sure, Aunt, as he says, what I do not fancy in the Piece, can never be agreeable in the Wear; and what can you ever buy cheaper? It is but nine Guineas.

Miss made her Purchase, and immediately returned with it; but, not knowing what had passed between *Sharp* and her Aunt, she took up her sitting so, as to give *Sharp* no farther Opportunity, at that Meeting, of dilating upon the Perfections of Antiquity; so that he took his Leave for the Evening, without being blessed with the old Lady's Reply to his Application.

There had passed but a single Day between *Sharp's* last Visit, and his next, in which numberless Encomiums had passed from the old Lady upon him, in his Absence; wishing, from her Heart, that Miss

was

was but provided of so sober a Gentleman as Mr. *Sharp*. Nay, could she but refrain from that Giddiness of Temper, and Unsteadiness in her Behaviour, she said, that she even gave herself up to, much more than became her, Mr. *Sharp* might have made an elegant Match for her; he bearing no Dislike to the Marriage-State itself, but to the Vanities of it.

The next Visit Mr. *Sharp* made, Miss informed him of what had passed between her and her Aunt, relative to him; whereupon, they both made themselves exceeding merry; but more especially, when *Sharp* had acquainted her of the Cause of her Aunt's good Opinion of him; for that it could proceed from no other Source, he was certain.

Miss hearing this, instantly sent up, to let her Aunt know that Mr. *Sharp* was below; and now, they had both drawn their Faces into the most solemn Order to receive her; little disputing, but her Sweetheart would fetch her in an Hurry; but near three Quarters of an Hour having past, without either the Sight, or hearing of her; Miss mistrusting somewhat to be the Matter with her, more than ordinary, left Mr. *Sharp*, to go see what it could be; when, upon the Stairs Head, she met a Lady so

gay and tempting, as she could have sworn rather to have been any other Woman in the Creation, than her Aunt.

The old Lady had stript herself from Top to Toe, since the Receipt of her Niece's Message, and had incased herself in so showey a Livery, as might far better have become a Grandchild of her's, had she been blessed with one; save, that the Cut, had imprinted the Age of Forty upon it. Her Head was dressed quite back, and airy; her Neck was bare, but flabby; and under such a Flow of Gaiety, she was descending to the Parlour; when Miss told her, she had sent her Word a full Hour ago by *Sally*, that Mr. *Sharp* waited to see her; and truly, she said, the poor Gentleman laboured under such Perplexity at her not coming, that he could not be persuaded but she was taken ill, and had sent her up to see after her.

I am obliged to him, good Soul, said the old Lady; but it is my Aversion for ever to appear in the same Suit before him, and so I have just slipt on this, that he may see one has better, and that it was Choice, made me hitherto appear as I have done to him, and not Necessity; but pray, Niece, look me over, added she, and see how my Things fit: For I have stuck every Pin myself,

self, that Wench, *Sally*, having not the least Fancy for Dress, whatever.

Miss declared, that not a Plait about her, but what was laid with an exquisite Exactness, and then followed the old Lady into the Room to *Sharp*; who, upon Sight of the Figure the old Girl cut in her Finery, with her Niece grinning over her Shoulder, ready to split her Sides, underwent the greatest of Difficulties, in preventing his bursting out with Laughter in her Face; however, he bridled his Propensity to Mirth, for the Sake of the Lady behind her, and receiving her with a most profound Reverence, conducted her by the Hand to her Chair, whether she tripped, as light as a Fairy.

They fell into Discourse presently, upon the News of the Day at *Bath*; but the old *Jezebel* waiting for somewhat more pertinent, formed several Excuses, for sending her Niece out of the Room, to give her Lover the freer Scope for his Addresses to her; whilst Miss, being ever more speedy in her Return than her Aunt expected, they had never as yet found Time for Enlargement upon the Subject.

This, her Aunt fearing would continue to be the Case, at length started somewhat from her reading, which she insisted to be

the finest Description of the Matter in Debate, that ever she had met with, again sent out her Niece to fetch such a Book, (which she was sure she could never find there) directing her Niece to the Title-pages of them for her Direction, not being able to describe its Covering; and whilst Miss was upon this random Chace, the old Lady, well knowing that whatever Business she had to transact in this World, she must be expeditious with, for Fear of a Call to the next; first, began with letting Mr. *Sharp* know, that she, having given him the hearing of what he was pleased to mention to her at his last Visit, had also since reconsidered it, and believed he would be of Opinion, that a Lady somewhat her junior, would be more adapted to his Years, than herself.

Am I then, Madam, said *Sharp*, to be rejected, merely for my Youth and Incapacity? But I plainly see, I am not alone in my Sentiments; tho' I esteem them the more, for your being of the same Opinion, and holding me more unworthy of being joined in Marriage to you, than a Gentleman by some Years my Senior. Madam, added he, though you may at present disesteem me for my Youth, it is, nevertheless, a Disqualification that will daily lessen upon me; and,

and, O! that I could but out run the coming Time, to fix my Standard where most eligible to you! But, Madam, though I am not Master of that Art, I may still command a greater, and anticipate my Life's last Period, if you enjoin me to it by your Cruelty; for, let my Sentence of Denial but once pass your Lips, and no longer will I live the Youth, detested by you.

I profess, Sir, said the old Woman, it would make me blush, to yield Consent upon so short an Acquaintance; but yet, Compassion, so innate in my Sex, forbids to drive a Lover to Extremity; if for no other Cause, but that he loves, which ought to be repaid by us in Kindness. What must I say then, added she, that I must first deliberately weigh the Consequences of your now Demand, and leave you subject to the Inquietude of a Fate uncertain? Or must I, by Compliance, yield you all you wish? Hope, in the former, keeps the Vessel steady, and, tho' it makes but little Way, it floats; the latter, granted, may overwhelm myself: Then let us know each other better first; it is not in my Nature to give Pain, merely for the Sake of tormenting, and if our Wills hold firm till I arrive at *London*, you there may meet with the

Fruition of your Wishes. More, I cannot, without impeaching my Discretion.

Sharp, at the Conclusion of this laboured Speech, snatched at her Hand, and clapping it to his Mouth; not all the Force of vain Philosophy, said he, could have settled my Peace upon so equitable a Foundation, Madam, as those prudential Cautions, issued from your experienc'd Lips. I am content, in the mean Space, to render you every Instance of an inviolable Attachment to your Person, to revere your Virtues, and to pay all due Deference to your Determinations.

Miss now returning, to tell her Aunt she had sent her upon a Fool's Errand, for that no such Book, as she had mentioned, was to be found; her Aunt, having answered her own Purpose, put her off, with her being sorry she should have caused her so much Trouble, but she now recollected, that she had left it behind her at *London*; then, being all alert and good humoured, she told *Sharp*, that, as there was nothing to be transacted, requisitory of their Attendance upon the publick Assemblies that Night, more than common, if, as it was now so far entered into the Evening, he pleased to eat a Bit of Supper with her Niece and her, and play a Pool at Ombre with them, they should

should esteem it for a Favour, that he would waste so much of his Time, with a Couple of simple Maidens.

No sooner had *Sharp* accepted the Offer, with Abundance of Compliments for the Favour, than the old Lady left him and her Niece together, whilst she stept to her Servant, to give Orders for the most genteel Supper, that could, in a Time limited, be prepared for them; upon which Errand, she not only tarried till *Sharp* had made Miss Mistress of all that Afternoon's Passages; but, till, condemning the Method he was pursuing with the old Lady, as not much longer tenable, he had appointed with Miss, not only a Time, but a Place for their Wedding, and the Manner in which it was to be executed too: So that having concluded upon this one Thing necessary for his Peace, the Evening passed far more jovially with him, than heretofore under Uncertainty.

Miss had nominated a Month to have passed preparatory to their Nuptials; but *Sharp* had reduced it to ten Days, and the most tedious Parcel of Time it proved to poor *Sharp*, of any that ever moved over his Head; as having nothing to provide therein, that might have employed his Thoughts in the procuring; for we had

acquainted ourselves with an underling Parson, to whom we now and then made a Present, in Hopes of one Time or other, having Occasion for a private Cast of his Office, and him it was that *Sharp* now engaged, for the Day and Place prefixed; which, that it might be done with the least Stir that was possible, they agreed to be performed, in the Evening of their second Day's Journey from *Bath*.

The Ladies, travelling in their own Coach, made short Journies; and setting out late the first Day, lay at *Chippenham*; but the next Day advancing to *Newbury*, the Knot was there tied: For *Sharp* was so over fond of the old Lady, that he sat out from *Bath* with her, to escort her to *London*; but here, meeting the Parson and me, who had made but slow Marches before them; so soon as the Ladies and *Sharp* had supped, it being customary for the old Lady to retire a While to her Bed-chamber, before she parted with her Niece for the Night; the Parson and I entering the Room, I gave away the young Lady to *Sharp* for his wedded Wife; and the Solemnity being concluded, before the old Lady's Return, the Parson and I were retired, to drink the Bride and Bridegroom's Health together,

ther, leaving them to dispose of their Time, most agreeably in nuptial Endearments.

They had agreed not to consummate their Marriage till after their Arrival in *London*: For that Miss was very bare of Money, having scarce any in her own Custody; but as her Aunt had some Weeks before been informed, by Letter, of Remittances arrived in the Hands of her Brother's Correspondent in Town, they had Hopes of securing these, before their Union should be known; lest it might prove far more difficult afterwards, when the old Lady, finding herself bit, would undoubtedly give them all the Trouble and Delay in her Power, before they should be able to dispossess her of it.

They had not been more than two Days in Town, when the Aunt and Niece went to Mr. *Westborn's* Agent, to know what Remittance had been made to Miss from her Father, and to see what Letters were come from him; when Mr. *G—y—t*, the Agent, produced to them a large Pacquet of Letters, and told them, he had disposed of the Sugars, Rum, and other Cargo, consigned to him for their Benefit, and, if they pleased, he would then pay them the neat Produce.

This,

This, we may be sure, they were ready to accept; but Mrs. *Sharp*, fearing the ill Consequence of its being paid to her Aunt, asked Mr. *G—y—t*, to whom her Father usually made his Donations to her, payable? He replied, that the Consignments were made to himself; and that his Instructions were, to pay the clear Produce for the Use, and Benefit of his Daughter; but that she, not being of Age to discharge him for such Payments, he had all along paid them to her Aunt, to whose Care she had been entrusted, upon her Discharges, to him.

Miss told him, she was then of Age, and had been ever since the Middle of the preceeding Summer. Whereupon, he then replied, that he must pay the present Sum to herself, and must beg the Favour of her Receipt for it. Ay, ay, replied the Aunt, you may take her Receipt for it, if you chuse it, rather than mine; to that, I have no Objection; but mine I take to be the safer Hand for depositing the Money in. My Niece is a young, giddy Creature, nor by any Means to be entrusted with it; for be it what it will, should she once have the fingering of it, not a Penny would be left in a Month's Time, all would go for fine Clothes, and gaudy Trappings. Mrs. *Sharp* would have said more in Justification of her Claim

Claim to it, had she not feared an open Rupture before its Time, between her Aunt and her : So that she suffered her to receive a Bank-Note for six hundred Pounds, and thirty odd Pounds in Money ; that being the neat Produce of the Merchandize.

Mr. *Sharp*, having been apprized of the Business they were to go upon that Morning, took Care, to plant himself ready to receive them, at their Return. He took little or no Notice of his Wife, by enquiring how her Father did ; but, directing his Discourse to the Aunt, as usual, he asked after her Brother's Health, hoping he was well ; and then proceeding, with the Abundance of Money those Gentlemen gained upon their Plantations abroad, the old Lady replied, that so might her Brother have been immensely rich too, had he not had that Chit of a Girl, meaning her Niece, to provide for, for so many Years, at the annual Expence of a very pretty *English* Estate. His Returns, she said, were made twice a Year, and that she had, that very Morning, received a six hundred Pounds Bank-Note, besides Money upon her Account, which would be all exhausted, long enough before a fresh Supply came, if she was not her Niece's Banker ; for that her Niece had no Notion of saving a Fortune, not she.

Sharp's

Sharp's Heart leaped in his Body at the Sound of the six hundred Pounds ; but his Fingers itched so to be griping it, that, Madam, said he, is it a Note of a very late Date ? That, indeed, she knew not, she said ; because, said *Sharp*, I am informed, the Bank have lately made an Alteration in their Bills, which I have never remarked yet, and should be extremely glad to look into.

He should presently be satisfied of that, she said ; then, taking the Note from her Pocket-book, she put it into *Sharp's* Hand to gratify his Curiosity with ; desiring him, at the same Time, to shew her the Difference between that and their former Notes, that she might know it again.

Sharp, looking it over and over, protested, he saw not the Alteration in it, that had been represented to him ; then folding it up as he received it, he very deliberately was putting it into his Waistcoat Pocket. Mrs. *Sharp* sat biting her Lips, in Dread of the impending Hurricane ; but the old Lady, smiling at him, told him, she judged him to be a little absent in Mind ; for that he was delivering her Note into his own Pocket.

I am so, Madam, said *Sharp*, as a Part of my Wife's Portion. This the old Lady esteem-

esteeming an Excess of Freedom with her ; your Wife's Portion, Sir ! said the old Lady, in some Warmth, there may go more Words than you are aware of to that Bargain. The Lady who would take you for an Husband, may see by your unmannerly Behaviour, what she would have to trust to with you ; but, Thanks to my kind Stars, it is not my Fate to be your Wife yet ; but it is this dear Lady's, Madam, replied *Sharp*, who, I persuade myself, will never oppose the Receipt of her Cash by her Husband.

Mrs. *Sharp* replying, that no one could claim a better Right to what she had, than her Husband. O ! my Conscience ! said her Aunt, one would judge you to be both mad ; but I desire to have none of your fooling with me, Niece,—especially, when so ill timed as it now is ; and come, Sir, added she to *Sharp*, pray return me my Note again.

I profess, Madam, answered he, I know of no Foolery my Wife has been guilty of, or of any Thing but the Delivery of what, I hope, are her real Sentiments. Nay, yourself being Judge, Madam, added he, if the Note, as you said but now, is my Wife's, belongs it not legally to me ?

Seeing,

Seeing, Sir, said the old Lady, that you would seem to be serious, pray let me ask you, how long you have claimed that Lady, my Niece, as your Wife? He told her when, and where, to the Truth of which, her Niece passed her Affelevation. Then cursed be the Name of Man, said she, for evermore! Did all your Professions to me, tend to this View only?

If you were not over-passionate, Madam, said he, I would make no Question of acquitting myself from every your Suggestions to my Prejudice. It is false, said she, and what can never be: For you absolutely made Love to me, at the same Time that you was intriguing with my Niece, to delude me.

I appeal to yourself, Madam, said *Sharp*, whether what I ever declared most excellent in you, was not your Years, and Judgment. Nay, so that I might but be retained in the Roll of your Intimates, to benefit from your Dictates and Experience, you well know, I declared I should be satisfied; and that I might still be the more intimate with you, I claimed you in Marriage; but did not you then, upon deliberate Reflection had, tell me from your own Lips, that a younger Lady would be more suitable to my Years? You know you did; whilst I,
sub-

submitting to your Judgment, pursued your Advice with your Niece, rather than with any other young Lady, that I might still have the Hope of your Friendship, and Intimacy, the chief Things that I ever desired of you.

I shall go distracted, to see myself thus duped between two Greenheads, said the old Lady; but, remember, the Cards are still in my Hands, and I shall play a Game, shall make your hypocritical Hearts ake, I'll warrant you; for such a Tale have I for my Brother's Ear, as will cause him both to disinherit, and disown you for it.

C H A P. XVII.

Sharp claims Mastership. His Lady sent for by her Father to Jamaica. Aunt in the Dumps. Reduced by Mrs. Sharp's Reasonings. Letter to put off Mrs. Sharp's Return. Draper maintained by Sharp.

THE old Lady having fled the Pit for Vexation, *Sharp* told his Bride, that he would leave her no more till he had bedded with her; so that he desired her to give Orders for Dinner, as Mistress of the House; and hearing that she had used constantly

stantly to be her Aunt's Chum, he desired her to order a Bed for them; for that he purposed to make her Lodging his Residence. Then, hearing also from his Lady, that her Aunt had but very little to subsist upon besides her Father's Remittances to her, he desired his Lady to assure her, that so long as she behaved herself in a friendly Manner to them, she should be as welcome in his Family as his own Mother; and that he should ever respect her as such, for her past Tendernesses to his Wife; but that, if she should prove turbulent, and refractory, she must forthwith either leave them, or they her: For that he would not endure whatever might create Uneasiness to them.

Having settled these Points, and being somewhat composed again, Mrs. *Sharp* recollected the Letters she had received from Mr. G—y—pt, and began to break open, and read them to herself; when, upon Perusal of the second, she could not restrain the Tears from trickling down her Face very plentifully.

The Sight of this was so hateful to *Sharp*, that, catching her in his Arms, my dearest Wife, said he, why these Tears, without disclosing to me the Occasion of them? Alas! my Dear, replied she, my Father has sent for me over Seas to him, when I hoped

I

I should be permitted to have spent the Remains of my Life in *England*. My own native Country will be most strange to me, as I myself shall be there a Stranger ; for I left it at five Years old.—But we must not hope, I see, to enjoy this Life after one's own Taste ; no, as I am dependent upon, so must I be subject to my Father's Pleasure ; but what will become of us, should my Marriage be displeasing to him, as no Doubt but it will, if he receives the first Impressions of it from my Aunt's Colourings ; who, in Revenge for your Behaviour to her, will place us in the most odious Light before him?

Sharp kissed her, and intreating her to dry up her Tears, assured her, he meant to prevent what so troubled her, if she would but subscribe to his Advice in the Affair. This, she engaging to comply with, he told her, she should that very Afternoon answer her Father's Letter, in the Manner himself would dictate to her ; and that he would the next Morning look out for the first Ship sailing to *Jamaica*, by which he would send it ; when her Father being prepossessed in their Favour, before he should receive Advice from her Aunt, whatever she might afterwards offer to him, would find the less Entertainment in his Breast,
and

and possibly, being only taken for a Pique of the old Lady's, for her own Disappointment, be wholly disregarded by him.

Mrs. *Sharp*, highly approving this Council, wiped off her Tears, and grew joyous again, and, just before Dinner-time, she sent up a Servant to call her Aunt down to it; but she desired to have it sent up to her, for that she should come no more amongst them.

Hereupon Mr. *Sharp*, who would at any moderate Rate still willingly subsist in the old Lady's good Graces, sent up his Lady, to urge to her what he had at first concluded upon, if she thought fit to accept it in good Part, and remain in Amity with them; or otherwise they must separate from each other. She found her Aunt too far overborn by her Passion, to give the least Ear to her Reasonings; and exclaiming vehemently at the Deceit that had been put upon her; but Mrs. *Sharp* replied, that it was really her own Fault; who, as having from her Years, and Relationship to her, a natural Sort of Superiority over her, imployed it to the distressing her in Things innocent, and of themselves, even meritorious.

She had been young herself, Mrs. *Sharp* told her, and, from natural Inclination, she doubted

doubted not, had been desirous of virtuous Freedoms with the Men, as well as other Persons, or as ever she herself was; then must it not be a detestable Thing, Madam, said she, to me, who have had those Appetites in common with my Sex, to be remarked in all Companies, for having an old Governess at my Elbow, watching every Word that I either spake, or was uttered to me? One, from whose Sight I could never be trusted; one, who debarred me the Enjoyment of every youthful Party, that was out of Character for herself to appear in?

Believe me, Madam, said Mrs. *Sharp*, this Behaviour of your's to me, not any over Warmth in my own Constitution, first prompted my Endeavours after Freedom, and encouraged me to surrender myself to the first Gentleman, who had Sense and Contrivance enough, by eluding your Vigilance, to make Way for his Addresses to my Ear.

People in Years, Madam, added she, must not, for that very Reason, judge all who are not so for Fools: Youth, has its Passions to be served, its Inclinations to gratify; nor will it fail of Means, though not ever the most commendable, when it finds itself excluded the Benefits of human Beings,

Beings, by its Seniors; for nothing can be more natural, than for the same Disposition, that by sober Council only might be bent to any Form, to spring with Violence from Compulsion, and revert to its natural Course. What else could have won my Concurrence to that Farce of a Robbery upon us, by an Highwayman of our own providing, that Mr. *Sharp* by his Gallantry, and the rescuing of us, might gain the Freedom of your House? What else, think you, Madam, would have caused him, when he was there, to overlook me, in whom he delighted, and to pay all his Compliments to you, whom he really, and mentally overlooked, but to make his Passage to me the more easy? And what else could invite me to join in the Collusion, but a Privation of my natural Liberty, which you took upon you to abridge?

Restraint, added she, is grievous to all, but especially to generous Natures; nor, when I might have coveted Marriage, can I assert, had it not been for your Methods of precluding me, even from the Society of Men as much as possible; at least, I had, as other Ladies at Liberty do, known somewhat more of my Man first, and had made my Demands of a Settlement; both of which I have been compelled to avoid, in

order to free myself from your rigorous Confinement of me.

Think not then, Madam, added she, that the crushed Worm will not turn upon the Foot that injures it, and that, by repaying like Injury. You have put me under Restraint avowedly, in Contradiction to my Inclination; Mr. *Sharp* and I have countermined your Devices; but all behind the Curtain. We have each acted in Opposition to the other's Will, and each are so far blameable; then never let one condemn the other, herself in the same Predicament; when each, by releasing other all past Injuries, may, now neither is dependent, subsist in future Tranquillity.

Though the old Woman, could but with Difficulty accord to her Niece's Reasonings, yet there was something so convincing in her Arguments, as she could by no Means withstand; nor mattered she any Thing so much, she said, as Mr. *Sharp's* Imposition upon her good Nature, which she knew not how to forgive; till her Niece replying, that her own Conduct having reduced him to that Necessity, she must esteem it not as aimed by Way of Injury against her, but merely, as without which he could never have brought his own Purposes to Perfection; and added, that as there had
been

been Mismanagement on both Sides, she thought it was best for both Sides to pass it off with a Joke, till they should have laughed themselves into good Humour again.

Mrs. *Sharp* took the most effectual Method in the World, for composing all their Differences, by acknowledging her own, and her Husband's Transgressions, at the same Time that she condemned her Aunt; for it is the absolutely discharging one's self, and accumulating all Blame upon one's Opponent, that, for the most Part, keeps Quarrels; endless the adverse Party generally bringing the same Way of reasoning to his Aid: So that nothing being more contrary from Peace, than the Injuries each charges other with, without the least Concession from either of his own Error, little Hopes can remain of a good Harmony, ever to be restored between them; but Mrs. *Sharp* taking a milder Course, and having engaged that her Husband should beg her Aunt's Pardon for the Fallacy he had put upon her, in the Prosecution of his Amour with her Niece, and never more mention it to her Disgrace, she at length descended with her Niece to Dinner; after which, the Servants being withdrawn, and *Sharp* having performed the Part his Lady had engaged for, they

they drank each other's Healths, and all was made up again, to the mutual Satisfaction of the Parties.

Mrs. *Sharp* then informed her Aunt, that her Father had ordered her over to him; seeming under vast Concern at the Thoughts of leaving *England*; nor indeed, was her Aunt a whit less sensibly affected, by such a Command, than herself, as it must infallibly put a Period to the Grandeur she had lived in, from her Niece's Infancy to that Time: For though his Remittances were not so extraordinary, in her more Infant State; yet to her, who had but a very scanty Pittance of her own, they were an ample Revenue; but since her Niece had arrived to any Maturity, they having been annually increasing, had arisen to a fine Income.

Their Heads were now all laid together, being all in the same Interest, for Means of diverting this melancholy Sentence, or at least of protracting its Execution; till at last it was unanimously referred to the old Lady, to write such an Answer to her Brother's Request, as might be most prevalent with him, for permitting his Daughter still to remain in *England*; Mr. *Sharp* having given her his Honour, that she should have equal Enjoyment of whatever Allowance

should be made from abroad to his Wife, as ever she had before his Marriage; save that he should expect his Wife to be the Housekeeper, and to have the Management of the Family, not in Opposition to, but in Concurrence with her Opinion, which he assured her, notwithstanding what had happened, he should never cease to esteem.

The old Lady being now come into their Measures herself, took Care of the Preparations for consummating their Nuptials, in the most decent and becoming Manner; and, as Mr. *Sharp* told them he had but one particular Friend in Town, whom he should chuse to invite to sup with him upon so joyful an Occasion, they consenting to it, he sent for me.

We spent the Night in all imaginable Pleasantry; drank the customary Healths, and, in short, were as frolicksome as the Occasion required; till, having deposited the Bride and Bridegroom, I returned again to my Lodgings; but was ever after as one of the Family, both dining and supping there whenever I pleased, and was as welcome to the Ladies as to *Jack* himself; nor was he at all backward in the Performance of his Part of our first Contract, but constantly supplied me, even to my own Heart's Desire; but nor this, nor whatever
else

else could happen beneficially for me, would allay the Depression of my Spirits; nay, it even increased it, the more happily *Sharp* lived, to find myself still his Dependant, a poor Cast-off, tricked, and deluded Sufferer, by the Retraction of the once loved Miss *Gatewell*, from both my Sight, and Knowledge, without Redemption.

But, to return to the present Transactions; the old Lady having the next Day performed the Task enjoined her, produced it to her Nephew and Niece for their concurrent Approbation; when Mrs. *Sharp*, as best versed in her Aunt's Hand-writing, read it aloud to her Husband, as follows.

Mrs. GRACE WESTBORN,

To the Honourable Colonel WESTBORN.

Dear BROTHER,

I Received your kind Letter by Mr. *G-y-t*, and your Daughter and I acknowledge our Obligations, for the last Remittance you made us, which arrived in the very Nick for our Service, we being but just returned from *Bath*, which expensive Place, had well nigh drained us of all that we had by us: For I think, that a young Lady of such Estimation as she must be in the World,

M 2

should

should be introduced into polite Life as early as possible, and by Degrees too; not be thrown into it all at once, whenever she becomes her own Mistress. We had in our Minds cut out Work of the like Kind, for the Employment of several other Seasons; but your Demand of her home to you, if immediately complied with, will subvert all our Projects, and leave Abundance of Things and Places, both unseen, and unknown by her, at her Departure,

Give me Leave therefore, dear Brother, to become an Advocate for her remaining with me a few Years longer: For now is her Time of remarking upon Things, and Actions, profitable for her future Conduct in Life, the giddy Heat of juvenile Blood abating in her, and admitting Discretion in its Room: Besides, really, Brother, it will be one of the greatest Pities in Nature, that a young Lady, perfectly fair and beautiful, and designed for high Life, should, in the very Prime of her Age, whilst all the World regards her, be hurried away to your hot Country, amongst a Set of Negroes, where the Sun, in Envy to her Complexion, will soon change it to their Hue, without future Possibility of recovering it.

As for the Hopes, you say, you have of marrying her abroad, what else can it be esteemed

esteemed by her, but burying her there? For can you conceive that she, who has been so long conversant with the *English* Modes and Gentry, can ever, without the extremest Regret, behold herself banished into a foreign Country, as your's will be to her, though she shall find herself one of prime Quality there? And, as I may say, a Kind of petty Sovereign; for her Subjects will still be but Negroes.

If it proves your Will that she shall return, we must acquiesce, and she will obey you; but trusting that your Affection for my Niece, and a Desire to see her, and have her near you, rather than any Considerations tending to her own Interest or Pleasure, have prevailed for your sending for her; I beg Leave to make you this Remonstrance, before she attempts the Voyage, which of all other Things she is the most averse from, she being subject to the Dread of nothing so much as Water; that, upon Reflection had with yourself, you may retract your Sentence, and rather afford us the Pleasure of seeing you here, than utterly to condemn so charming a young Lady, as my Niece, to an absolute Privation of the natural Vermilion of such a Skin, as the mightiest Princess upon Earth might be proud of.

Let

Let me have a compliant Answer from my dear Brother, for which I shall not cease to hope, as also for your own Health and Felicity, whilst I remain,

Dear BROTHER,

Your Affectionate Sister,

GRACE WESTBORN.

Mrs. *Sharp* having gone through it, said, she was mightily obliged to her Aunt, for that she approved it highly, and asked Mr. *Sharp* what he thought of it? who said, he was perfectly of her Mind, and had every Obligation to his Aunt for it; there being but one Thing that he could any Ways condemn it for.

The old Lady desiring him to point that out to her, that it might be rectified. *Sharp* replied, that she had mentioned the seasonable Arrival of the last Sum, the former being all exhausted, or to that Purpose. Now, he said, that if the old Gentleman usually made them the like half yearly Remittances, he feared, lest he should imagine two single Ladies not a little extravagant, who could not make such a Sum suffice them, for at least six Months.

Oh! ho! said the old Lady, trouble not your Head about that. I know my Brother

ther better than you do. He loves Money next his own Life, at the Bottom; though he, and his Countrymen love to appear grand, that they may be talked of; but if he knew we could make a Figure upon less, we should have that only. This makes me always appear to be in Want, that he may rather increase, than diminish it, which is what has brought him to afford us what he does.

I humbly beg Pardon, good Madam, said *Sharp*, for wading beyond my Depth. I perceive there will be a Mystery in all Sciences, and must own, this is what I comprehended not; but your Argument is perfectly just, added he, and I have done.

The old Lady having copied it over, verbatim, fair, *Sharp* was dispatched to hear of some Ship bound to those Parts, and in a few Days it departed. Thus stood *Sharp's* Affairs, till the Return of the old Gentleman's Answer.

END of the FIRST VOLUME.

BOOKS lately Published.

1. **A** Compendious HISTORY of the OLD and NEW TESTAMENT, extracted from the HOLY BIBLE; and adapted to all Capacities. Whereby the Reader may be enabled, in an *Easy, Pleasant, and Speedy Manner*, to become learned in the Sacred Scriptures.

Interpersed with suitable Reflections,

and adorned with 120 curious Copper-Plate Cuts, lively representing each History. The Seventh Edition, corrected. Price only 2s. *bound in Red.*

2. A Treatise on VIRTUE and HAPPINESS. By Thomas Nettleton, M. D. F. R. S. The Fourth Edition, corrected, and very much improved by the Author. Price bound, 4s.

5 JA 59

3. The PRUDENT JESTER; or, *Winter-Evening's Companion*. Containing a most agreeable Composition of WIT and WISDOM, viz. Salutary Jest, Keen Repartees, Moral Tales, Instructive Fables, Allegorical Stories, Anecdotes, &c. &c. &c. The Whole being calculated to improve the Understanding, to make the Heart merry, and to instil virtuous Principles; and is therefore a proper Companion to render the long and tedious Winter Evenings both pleasant and improving.

*Let modern Wits obscene Entendres prize;
Take my Advice—Be Merry and be Wise.*

Price sewed, 1s. 6d.